

we inhabit. Some think that the heat is migratory; and is now developed more in one direction and now in another. Be that as it may, the heat is intense, and widely diffused, and cannot fail to produce important effects in the regions where it operates. It may *half melt* rocks, before aqueous in their character; so that we may still discern the strata, but in a very different condition. And this is supposed to be the case with our *slates* retaining marks of stratification, but having a structure very different from any which could have been derived simply from the process of deposition from water, and in many places quite crystallised. ‘Whether electricity or any other causes have co-operated with heat to produce this influence, may be matter of speculation.’\*

Again, the subterranean fire may entirely melt the rocks with which it comes in contact, and these may afterwards be cooled and solidified far down in the earth. The rocks which are termed *granites* are understood to have been thus formed. They are highly crystal-

\* Lyell’s Elem. of Geol., part i., ch. i.