

by Becquerel, that electrical action can produce such effects. The experiments of Fox indicate the same truth. Without entering into the controversies which have been agitated on the subject, or attempting to clear up its remaining mysteries, these facts, I may state on the authority of eminent geologists, as now well established: *First*, the rocks had originally no such veins. *Second*, the cavities in which the metals collect were caused by disturbance and dislocation; and here we have another of the many benefits attending on those convulsions of nature, which appear so formidable. *Third*, the metals were separated from the general mass of the rocks, and deposited in the chinks provided for them, by very slow and imperfectly understood processes. What a laboratory then was here! what multiplicity and immensity of chemical operations! To outward view, the mountain would have seemed a slumbering and inert heap of matter, when all of it was passing from its pinnacles to its foundations, from its surface to its centre, through busy transformations. The infiltrated water was permeating every pore; so were the gases which that water absorbed,