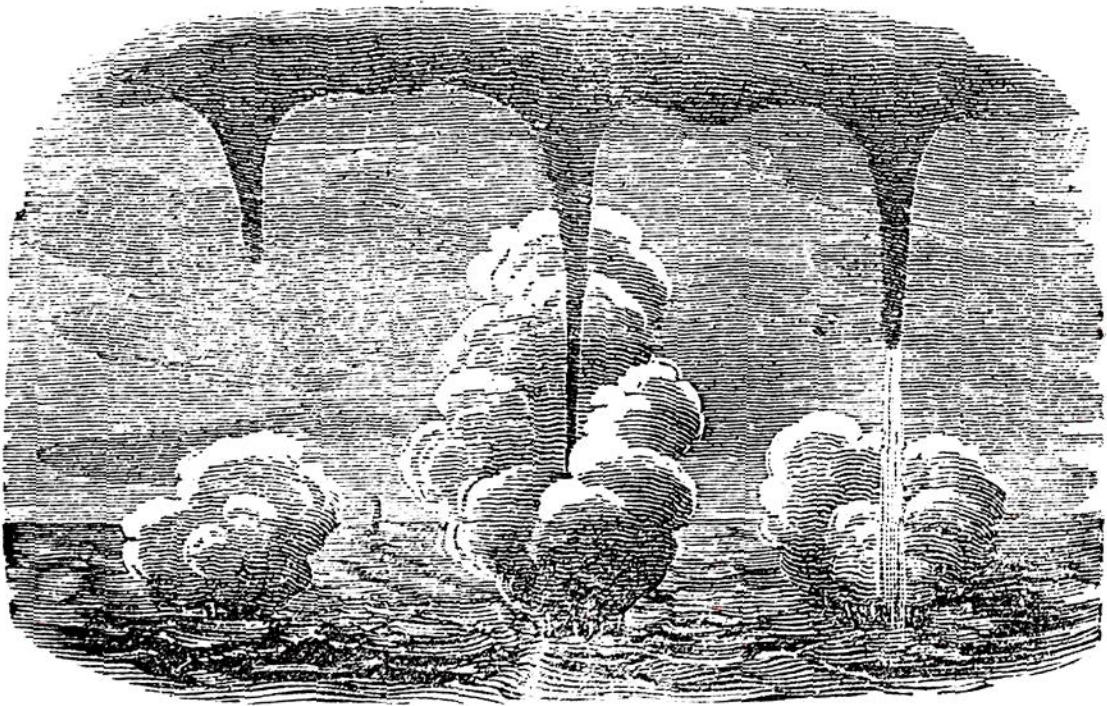


out a long curved spout, while at the same time a thick fog rose out of the sea. After an interval of about two minutes, the spout rushed down and joined the cloud which had risen from the sea. The cloud from which the spout descended then moved, says Mr. Maxwell, slowly along, and probably by its motion produced the curvature of the spout. The fog proceeding from the sea was of the same colour as the spout, and resembled the smoke of a steam-engine. The surface of the water under the spout was during the whole time in a state of violent agitation, and a noise was heard like that of a waterfall. The spout soon withdrew itself again into the cloud from which it had descended, and the fog receded into the sea. The whole exhibition did not last more than three minutes. The same author had opportunities at other times of observing similar appearances, and in all cases they presented nearly the same phenomena, and he has represented in the following diagram the different states in which they occur. At their first formation, he says, they appear of a conical tubular form, dropping from a black cloud before the disturbance of the sea is observed. The black conical cloud then descends, and the smoke-like appearance from the



States of the Water-spout.

sea ascends, until they join. When the spout begins to disperse, the black cloud draws itself up, and a thin transpa-