

as marine deposits. *Telliamed* was written in 1715 and 1716, but did not appear until 1748. On account of its heterodoxy, De Maillet would not allow its publication until after his death. The book is written in the form of dialogues between an Indian philosopher, Telliamed, and a French missionary. All the heterodox ideas of the author are placed in the mouth of the oriental, and it is left to the listener to adopt them or to reject them.

The subject-matter is divided into six dialogues. The first dialogue starts upon the hypothesis that in the beginning the whole earth was covered by water. As the water diminished in volume, mountains, islands, and continents made their appearance. The highest or primitive mountain-systems emerged from the world-ocean at a time when the seas were very sparsely inhabited by organisms, hence these rocks are either unfossiliferous or poorly fossiliferous. By the erosion and fragmentation of these primitive rocks the material for the further formation of rock was obtained. Sediments were continually in process of deposition in the seas, and the younger the rocks, the more richly they became filled with the remains of animals and plants. Telliamed also notes that many species of fossil mollusca are apparently now extinct.

The second dialogue brings forward a number of evidences in support of Telliamed's hypothesis that the level of the ocean was formerly higher. Telliamed reckons the lowering of the sea-level at a foot in three hundred years, or three and a quarter feet in a thousand years. The third dialogue suggests various methods by which a more accurate determination of the lowering of the sea-level might be obtained. The fourth is devoted to fossils, the origin of which from living organisms Telliamed firmly believed in. The fifth and sixth dialogues treat of the cosmology of the earth, but are distinctly weaker than the foregoing. If we except these concluding chapters, the *Telliamed* far outshines other geological writings of the eighteenth century in its wealth of observed facts, its daring originality, and its charm of style.

A few other notable works of the eighteenth century may be briefly mentioned. The Englishman Needham, writing in 1769, assumed, like Leibnitz, a central fire in the earth, and traced to it the origin of mountains and volcanoes. He thought the concentric arrangement of the strata upon mountains indicated that these strata, and the fossils contained