

condensed into liquid form and made the ocean, which by washing the debris of the crust, dissolved out the soluble ingredients and became salt. As the thickness of the crust increased, its solidification was accompanied by the formation of immense cavities containing air or water, the roofs of which, when they sank down, would form valleys, while the other more solid parts would rest like columns and give rise to mountains. By the disruption of the crust, whether owing to its weight or to gaseous explosions, vast inundations would be produced which rushing over the face of the globe would sweep a great amount of sediment together and allow of the accumulation of sedimentary formations. Thus the face of the earth would be often renovated until, as the various disturbing forces quieted down and become more equable in their action, a more stable condition of things (*consistentior rerum status*) arose. In these reactions Leibnitz clearly recognised the working of the two great classes of geological causes, in the first place the internal heated nucleus whence igneous rocks proceed, and in the second place, the superficial waters whereby hollows are eroded on the earth's surface and sedimentary rocks are formed.

As if he considered their obvious connection with the internal fire a sufficient explanation of their occurrence, Leibnitz passes briefly over the subject of earthquakes and volcanoes. Yet he seems still to entertain the old notion that actual combustion takes place as part of these subterranean disturbances, for in alluding to the underground fires that feed volcanoes, he mentions the deposits of stone-coal and