

A fourth portion descends into the strata, and is accumulated in their interstices into subterraneous sheets and reservoirs of water, from which it is discharged gradually at the surface in the form of perennial Springs, that form the *ordinary supply* of Rivers.

As soon as Springs issue from the Earth, their waters commence their return towards the Sea; rills unite into streamlets, which, by further accumulation form rivulets and rivers, and at length terminate in estuaries, where they mix again with their parent ocean. Here they remain, bearing part in all its various functions, until they are again evaporated into the Atmosphere, to pass and repass through the same Cycles of perpetual circulation.

The adaptations of the Atmosphere to this important service in the economy of the Globe belong not to the province of the geologist. Our task is limited to the considération of the mechanical arrangements in the solid materials of the Earth, by means of which they co-operate with the Atmosphere, in administering to the circulation of the most important of all fluids.

There are two circumstances in the condition of the strata, which exert a material influence in collecting subterraneous stores of water, from which constant supplies are regularly giving forth in the form of springs; the first consists in the *Alternation* of porous beds of sand and stone,