

stationed as to counteract it, and keep the earth's crust at its assigned distance. To compare great things with small, He who made the rain-drop made also the air-bubble,—the one to fall, the other to rise.

The word of God, in many places, speaks of an abyss of waters under the earth, as distinct from the ocean though in communication with it,\* and also as contributing to form springs and rivers.† Scientific men in the present day, appear disposed to question this; the Geologist, though he may regard the granitic strata as forming the base, as it were, of the crust of the earth, seems rather to view it as containing a focus of heat, than a magazine of infinite waters; from whence are partly derived the springs and rivers that water the earth's surface, and ultimately make good to the ocean its whole loss by evaporation.‡ “Springs,” says the author above quoted, “are so many little reservoirs, which receive their waters from the neighbouring ground, through small lateral channels.” He allows, however, that the origin of springs cannot be referred to one exclusive cause, and associates with that just mentioned, the precipitation of atmospheric vapours attracted by high lands, the dissolving of ice, the filtering of sea-waters, and the explosion of subterraneous vapours. He makes no direct mention of a store-house of waters in the bosom of the earth as in any case the source of springs and rivers, but allows that “the phenomena of capillary tubes may obtain in its interior. The sea-waters, deprived of their salt and bitter elements, may ascend through the imperceptible pores of several rocks, from which, being disengaged by the heat, they will form those subterraneous vapours to which many springs owe their origin.” A very slight alteration of this passage would

\* Comp. Job xxviii. 14, xxxviii. 16, 17. Gen. xlix. 25. Deut. xxxiii. 13. Jonah ii. 6, &c.

† Ps. lxxviii. 15, 16. Prov. viii. 24.

‡ See Appendix, Note 9.