

## CHAPTER I.

OF THE GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE EARTH: PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF ITS SURFACE INTO LAND AND WATER; AND WITH RESPECT TO ITS ATMOSPHERE.

### SECTION I.

*Of the General Relations of the Sea and the Land to each other.*

OUR earth may be considered to be composed of various solid, liquid, and gaseous materials; the absolute proportions of which to each other, we cannot even conjecture. Of the mean density of the whole, however, we can form some estimate; and philosophers have shown, that this density lies between five, and five and a half, the density of water being supposed to be one. We can also form a tolerably precise notion, of the relative proportions of the surface, occupied by the solid, and the liquid materials; and of the pressure and height of the atmosphere, by which these solid and liquid materials are surrounded.