

is merely a relative estimation; we have no certain standard nor proportion; we are so intirely ignorant of the real weight of the materials, that the internal part of the globe may be a void space, or composed of matter a thousand times heavier than gold; nor is there any method to make further discoveries on this subject; and it is with the greatest difficulty any rational conjectures can be formed upon it.

We must therefore confine ourselves to a correct examination and description of the surface of the earth, and to those trifling depths into which we have been enabled to penetrate. The first object which presents itself is the immense quantity of water which covers the greatest part of the globe; this water always occupies the lowest ground, its surface always level, and constantly tending to equilibrium and rest; nevertheless, it is kept in perpetual agitation by a powerful agent, which opposing its natural tranquillity impresses it with a regular periodical motion, alternately raising and depressing its waves, producing a vibration in the total mass, by disturbing the whole body to the greatest depths. This motion we know has existed from the commencement of time,
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