ganization is not distinguishable. Penetrating a little further we find a little earth, beds of sand, limestone, clay, shells, marble, gravel, chalk, &c. These beds are always parallel to each other, and of the same thickness throughout their whole extent. In neighbouring hills beds of the same materials are always found at the same levels though the hills are separated by deep and extensive intervals. All beds of earth, even the most solid strata, as rocks, quaries of marble, &c. are uniformly divided by perpendicular fissures, perpendicular to the horizon; it is the same in the largest as well as smallest depths, and appears a rule which nature invariably pursues.

In the very bowels of the earth, on the tops of mountains, and even the most remote parts from the sea, shells, skeletons of fish, marine plants, &c. are frequently found, and these shells, fish and plants are exactly similar to those which exist in the ocean. There are a prodigious quantity of petrified shells to be met with in an infinity of places, not only inclosed in rocks, masses of marble, limestone, as well as in earths and clays, but are actually incorporated and filled with the very substance which surrounds them. In short, I find myself convinced, by repeated observations,