

tions, that marbles, stones, chalks, marls, clay, sand, and almost all terrestrial substances, wherever they may be placed, are filled with shells and other substances, the productions of the sea.

These facts being enumerated let us now see what reasonable conclusions are to be drawn from them.

The changes and alterations which have happened to the earth within these two or three thousand years are very inconsiderable indeed, when compared with those important revolutions which must have taken place in those ages immediately following the creation; for as all terrestrial substances could only acquire solidity by the continual action of gravity, it would be easy to demonstrate, that the surface of the earth was much softer at first than it is at present, and consequently the same causes which now produce but slight and almost imperceptible changes, during many ages, would then effect great revolutions in a very short space. It appears to be a certain fact that the earth which we now inhabit and which is a dry abode, and even the tops of the highest mountains, were formerly covered with the sea, for shells and other marine productions are frequently found in almost every part ;