

thence we shall soon be enabled to draw rational conclusions with regard to the external form and internal composition of that which we inhabit.

From the creation the sea has constantly been subject to a regular flux and reflux : this motion, which raises and falls the waters twice in every twenty-four hours, is principally occasioned by the action of the moon, and is much greater under the equator than in any other climates. The earth performs a rapid motion on its axis, and consequently has a centrifugal force, which is also greater at the equator than in any other part of the globe ; this latter, independently of actual observation, proves that the earth is not perfectly spherical, but that it must be more elevated under the equator than at the poles.

From these combined causes, the ebbing and flowing of the tides, and the motion of the earth, we may fairly conclude, that although the earth were a perfect sphere in its original form, (which however is a gratuitous assumption and displays the narrowness of our own ideas) yet its diurnal motion, together with the constant flux and reflux of the sea, must, in the course of time, have raised the equatorial parts, by carrying mud, earth, sand, shells,