

shells, &c. from other climes, and there depositing of them. Agreeable to this idea the greatest irregularities must be found, and, in fact, are found, near the equator. Besides, as this motion of the tides is made by diurnal alternation, and has been repeated, without interruption, from the commencement of time, is it not natural to imagine, that each time the tide flows the water carries a small quantity of matter from one place to another, which may fall to the bottom like a sediment, and form those parallel and horizontal strata which are every where to be met with? for the whole motion of the water in the flux and reflux being horizontal, the matters carried away with them will naturally follow the same direction, and be deposited upon the same level.

But to this it may be said, that as the flux and reflux of the waters are equal and regularly succeed, the two motions would counterpoise each other, and the matters brought by the flux would be returned by the reflux, and of course this cause of the formation of the strata must be chimerical; that the bottom of the sea could not experience any material alteration by two uniform motions, wherein the effects of the one would be regularly destroyed by