

book. Beds of sand, soft and hard clay, chalk, and shells, are also either horizontal or regularly inclined. Strata of every kind preserves the same thickness throughout its whole extent, which often occupies the space of many leagues, and might be traced still further by close and exact observations. In a word, the materials of the globe, as far as mankind have been enabled to penetrate, are arranged in a uniform position, and are exactly similar.

The strata of sand and gravel which have been washed down from mountains must in some measure be expected; in plains they are sometimes of a considerable extent, and are generally placed under the first strata of the earth; they are as even as the most ancient and interior strata, but near the bottom and upon the ridges of hills they are inclined and follow the inclination of the ground upon which they have flowed. These being formed by rivers and rivulets, which are constantly in vallies changing their beds, and dragging these sands and gravel with them, they are of course very numerous. A small rivulet flowing from the neighbouring heights, in the course of time, will be sufficient to cover a very spacious valley with a strata of sand and gravel, and I have