

shrunk and diminished in proportion to the quantity of matter which has been thrown out ; another proof that the volcanos are not situated at the bottom of the mountain, but rather at no great distance from the very summit.

In many places therefore earthquakes have formed considerable hollows, and even separations in mountains ; all other inequalities have been produced at the same time with the mountains themselves by the currents of the sea, for in every place where there has not been a violent convulsion, the strata of the mountains are parallel, and their angles exactly correspond. Those subterraneous caverns which have been produced by volcanos are easily distinguishable from those formed by water ; for the water having washed away the sand and clay with which they were filled, leaves only the stones and rocks, and this is the origin of caverns upon hills ; while those found upon the plains are commonly nothing but ancient pits and quarries, such as the salt quarries of Maestricht, and the mines of Poland, &c. But natural caverns belong to mountains : they receive the water from the summit and its environs, from whence it issues over the surface whenever it can obtain a passage ; and these are the sources of springs
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