

water, and in fields situated in the environs of rivers it is often obtained by a few strokes with a pick-axe.

This quantity of water, which is found in low grounds, comes principally from the neighbouring hills and eminences; for at the time of great rains or sudden melting of snow, a part of the water flows on the surface, but most of it penetrates through the small cracks and crevices it finds in the earth and rocks. This water springs up again to the surface wherever it can find vent; but it often filters through the sand until it comes to a bottom of clay or solid earth, where it forms subterraneous lakes, rivulets, and perhaps rivers, whose courses are entirely unknown; they must, however, follow the general law of nature, and constantly flow from the higher grounds to the lower, and consequently these subterraneous waters must, in the end, fall into the sea, or collect in some low place, either on the surface or in the interior part of the earth; for there are several lakes into which no rivers enter, nor from which there is any issue; and a much greater number, which do not receive any considerable river, that are the sources of the greatest rivers

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