BUFFON'S

or some solid body, where it continues collecting, and at length breaks out in form of springs upon the surface.

It would be very difficult to make an exact calculation of the quantity of subterraneous waters which have no apparent vent. Many have pretended that it greatly surpasses all the waters that are on the surface of the earth.

Without mentioning those who have maintained that the interior part of the globe is entirely filled with water, there are some who believe an infinity of floods, rivulets, and lakes to be in the bowels of the carth. But this opinion does not seem to be properly founded, and it is more probable that the quantity of subterrancous water, which never appears on the surface, is not very considerable; for if these subterraneous rivers be so very numerous, why do we never see any of their mouths forcing their way through the surface? Besides, rivers, and all running waters, produce great alterations on the surface of the earth; they transport the soil, wear away the most solid rocks, and displace all matters which oppose their passage. It would certainly be the same in subterraneous rivers; the same effects would