

there is any difference, it can proceed only from the inequalities, which the water and other external causes have produced on its surface; but these inequalities being more irregular than regular, we must not thence form any hypothesis, nor suppose, that the meridians are ellipses, or any other regular curves. From whence we perceive, that if we should successively measure many degrees of the earth in all directions, we should still not be certain by that alone, of the exact situation of the poles, nor whether they were depressed more or less than the 230th part.

May it not also be conjectured, that if the inclination of the axis of the earth have changed, it can only have been produced by the changes which have happened to the surface, since all the rest of the globe is homogeneous; that consequently this variation is not sufficiently obvious to be perceived by astronomers, and that if the earth is not encountered with a comet, or deranged, by any other external cause, its axis will remain perpetually inclined as it is at present, and as it has always been?

And lastly, that we may not omit any conjecture which appears reasonable, may it not be said that as the mountains and inequalities which are