

sun freely passed and instantly produced light :
“ Let there be light, and there was light.”
The columns which composed the orb of the Earth being formed with such great precipitation is the cause of their different densities ; consequently the heaviest sunk deeper into this subterraneous fluid than the lightest ; and it is this which has produced the vallies and mountains on the surface of the earth. These inequalities were, before the deluge, dispersed and situated otherwise than they are at present. Instead of the vast valley, which contains the ocean, there were many small divided cavities on the surface of the globe, each of which contained a part of this water : the mountains were also more divided, and did not form chains as at present : nevertheless, the earth contained a thousand times more people, and was a thousand times more fertile ; and the life of man and other animals were ten times longer, all which was effected by the internal heat of the earth that proceeded from the centre, and gave birth to a great number of plants and animals, bestowing on them a degree of vigour necessary for them to subsist a long time, and multiply in great abundance. But this heat, by increasing the strength of
bodies,