

the surface of the earth discovered itself in the highest parts; at length water alone remained in the lowest parts; that is to say, the vast valleys which contains the sea. Thus our ocean is a part of the ancient abyss, the rest is entered into the internal cavities with which the ocean communicates. The islands and sea rocks are the small fragments, and continents are the great masses of the old crust. As the rupture and the fall of this crust were made suddenly and with confusion, it was not surprising to find eminences, depths, plains, and inequalities of all kinds on the surface of the earth.

ARTICLE IV.

FROM THE SYSTEM OF WOODWARD.

IT may be said of this author, that he attempted to raise an immense monument on a less solid base than the moving sand, and to construct a world with dust; for he pretends, that at the time of the deluge a total dissolution of the earth took place. The first idea