

though his ideas are not absolutely impossibilities, there is so little probability in them, when separately considered, that the result upon the whole puts it beyond credibility.

The three systems we have spoken of are not the only works which have been composed on the theory of the earth. A Memoir of M. Bourguet appeared in 1729, printed at Amsterdam, with his "Philosophical Letters on the Formation of Salts, &c." in which he gives a specimen of the system he meditated, but which was prevented from being completed by the death of the author. It is but justice to admit, that no person was more industrious in making observations or collecting facts. To him we owe that great and beautiful observation, the correspondence between the angles of mountains. He presents every thing which he had collected in great order; but with all those advantages, it appears that he has succeeded no better than the rest in making a physical and reasonable history of the changes which had happened to the globe, and that he was very far from having found the real cause of those effects which he relates. To be convinced of this we need only cast our eyes on the propositions