

conduits ; pearls are found therein, and other similar matters which have been produced by the animal when it inhabited its shell ; and what is very considerable, their specific gravity is exactly the same as that of their kind found actually in the sea ; in all chymical experiments they answer exactly with sea-shells ; when dissolved they have the same appearance, smell and taste ; in a word, their resemblance is perfectly exact.

I have often observed with astonishment, as I have already said, whole mountains, chains of rocks, enormous banks of quarries, so full of shells and other wrecks of marine productions, that their bulk surpassed that of the matter in which they were deposited.

I have seen cultivated fields so full of petrified cockles that a man might pick them up with his eyes shut, others covered with cornu ammonis, and some with cardites ; and the more we examine the earth, the more we shall be convinced that the number of these petrifications is infinite, and conclude, that it is impossible that all the animals which inhabited these shells existed at one time.

I have made an observation, that in all countries where we find a very great number of petrified