

even pretty far under the sea. The Pyrennees are also only a continuation of that vast mountain which begins in Upper Valesia, and whose branches extend very far to the west and south, preserving throughout the same great height ; whereas on the side of the north and of the east these mountains grow lower by degrees, till they become plains ; as we see by the large tract which the Rhine and Danube water before they reach their mouths, whereas the Rhone descends with rapidity towards the south into the Mediterranean. The same observation is found to hold good in the mountains of England and Norway ; but the part of the world where this is most evidently seen is at Peru and Chili ; the Cordeliers are cut very sharply on the western side, the length of the Pacific Ocean, whereas on the eastern side they lower by degrees into large plains, watered by the greatest rivers of the world.*

M. Bourguet, to whom we owe this great discovery of the correspondence of the angles of mountains, terms it “ *The Key of the Theory of the Earth* ;” nevertheless, it appears to me, that if he had conceived all the importance of it, he would more successfully have made use of it,

* See Phil. Trans. Abr. Vol. VI. part ii. p. 153.