

of cold, by sublimating it into vapours in a very cold air; and also that water, which only owes its liquidity to heat, would become a substance much more solid and fusible, as it would endure a stronger and a longer time the rigour of the cold.

But without stopping upon this subject, that is, without admitting or excluding the possibility of the conversion of the ice into infusible matter, or fixed and solid earth, let us pass on to more extensive views on the modes which Nature makes use of for the transformation of water. The most powerful of all and the most evident is the animal filter. The body of shell-animals, by feeding on the particles of water, labours, at the same time, on the substance to the point of unnaturalizing it. The shell is certainly a terrestrial substance, a true stone, from which all the stones called *calcareous*, and many other matters, derive their origin. This shell appears to make the constitutive part of the animal it covers, since it is perpetuated by generation, for it is on the small shell-animal just come into existence as well as on those which have arrived at their full growth; but this is no less a terrestrial substance, formed by the secretion or exudation of the body, for it increases and thickens  
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