

forms so many new islands ; so likewise the sea, by extending itself on certain shores, covers the lowest parts, and leaves the highest, which appear as so many islands ; and thus it is we may account for there being so few islands in the open sea, and so many bordering on the continents.

Water and fire, whose natures appear so different and so contrary, produce many similar effects, independent of the particular productions of these two elements, some of which bear so striking a resemblance as to be mistaken for each other, as glass and crystal, natural and fictitious antimony, &c. There are in nature an infinity of great effects produced by them, which are scarcely to be distinguished. Water, as has been observed, has produced mountains and formed most islands, while others owe their origin to fire. There are likewise caverns, clefts, holes, gulphs, &c. some of which owe their origin to subterraneous fires, and others to waters.

Caverns are met with in mountains, and few or none in plains : there are many in the Archipelago, and in other islands, because they are in general only the tops of mountains : caverns are formed like precipices, by the sinking of
rocks,