

the parts of common stone, but even those of flint. This juice, say they, constantly augments the density of stones by reiterated filtrations, and at length converts them into real flint. When this juice is fixed in spar, it continues to receive still more pure juices, which increase its density and hardness, so that this matter successively becomes glass, then crystal, and at last a perfect diamond.

But if this is true, why, in whole provinces, does this crystalline juice form only stone, and in others nothing but flint? Will they say, that the two soils are not of a like age, and that this juice has not had time to circulate and complete the end of its natural action? This is not probable. Besides, from whence does this juice proceed? If it produces stone and flints, what is it that produces this juice? It is apparent that it has no existence independent of these matters, which of themselves can give to the water that penetrates them a petrifying quality, always relative to their native and specific character; insomuch that when it filtrates through stones it forms spar, and when it issues from flints, crystal: and there are as many different kinds of this juice, as matters from which they proceed. Experience perfectly agrees with
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