

alone which the rain causes to sink, for they attack the hardest rocks, and carry with them large fragments into the vallies. In a valley in Nant-phrancon, in 1685, a part of a large rock, which rested on a narrow base, having been undermined by the waters, fell and broke in many pieces, the largest of which, in descending, tore up a considerable trench in the plain, and crossed a small river on the other side of which it stopped. It is to similar accidents we must attribute the origin of all the large stones found adjacent to the mountains. We must recollect, as before observed, that these large stones, scattered abroad, are more common in countries whose mountains are composed of sand and free-stone, than in those where their composition is marble and clay, because sand is a less solid foundation than clay.

To give an idea of the quantity of earth which the rain detaches from mountains and carries into the vallies, we shall quote a circumstance related by Dr. Plot; he says, in his *Natural History of Staffordshire*, that 18 feet deep in the earth a great number of pieces of money had been found, coined in the reign of Edward IV. two hundred years before his
time,