

strata of the earth; and the correspondence of hills and mountains, appear as so many convincing proofs; for by examining the plains, vallies, and hills, we clearly perceive that the surface of the earth has been formed by the waters. It is equally evident, when we look into the interior parts of the earth, that those stones which contain sea-shells, have been formed by the sediments of the waters, since the shells are found filled with the same matter as that which surrounds them; and lastly, by reflecting on the corresponding angles of opposite hills, we cannot doubt that their directions are the works of the currents of the sea. It is true, that since the earth has been left uncovered, the original form of the surface has been constantly changing; the mountains have diminished in height; the plains have been elevated; the angles of hills become more obtuse; many matters washed away by floods, or rivers, have taken a round shape; beds of gravel, soft stone, &c. have been formed; but the essential matter is still remaining, the ancient form is still apparent, and I am persuaded that all the world may be convinced by their own inspection of what has been advanced on this subject; and whoever attends to the observations and proofs I