

of the trees, and calls himself lord and proprietor of this new creation." vol. iii. pp. 331-3.

§ 13. Having thus brought to a conclusion our survey of the phænomena which it forms the object of Geology to investigate, we subjoin a rapid sketch of the progress of that science, especially in our own country.

In the limited number of physical subjects which attracted the attention of classical antiquity, we can only venture to include a few insulated phænomena from among those which fall within the province of Geology. Such striking natural appearances as earthquakes and volcanos could not indeed entirely escape notice, and we occasionally find crude theories proposed to account for their causes:* the formation of new lands by the alluvium of rivers,† the birth of new islands,‡ and the encroachment of the sea on the land,|| are also topics often handled by them which at least border on Geology. With the great and leading fact of geological speculation, the occurrence of the spoils of marine animals imbedded in the solid strata of the continents, they were acquainted,§ but it seems not to have excited much interest or curiosity; and it is singular that when adducing other arguments to prove the favorite tenet of some of their schools, that the face of nature was undergoing a perpetual change, so that what was then land had once been sea, this, which amounted to ocular proof, is very often overlooked.‡

* Pliny. Hist. Nat. lib. 2. 81 ad 86. Aristotle, Meteorologica lib. 2. 14, 15, 16. Lucretius, lib. 6. Seneca, Nat. quæst. a cap. 4. Plutarch de Placitis, Philos. lib. 3.

† Pliny. lib. 2. 87. Aristotle. Meteor. lib. 1. 14. Herodotus, lib. 2. in initio. Polybius gives an interesting account of the increase of alluvial deposits in the Palus Mæotis (lib. 4). Strabo mentions the volcanic formation of a new mountain of enormous height in the neighbourhood of Methone. (Ed. Ab. tom 1. p. 102.)

‡ Pliny. lib. 2. 88. 89.

|| Pliny. lib. 2. 90. 92. 94.

§ Pausanias (Attica) describes a quarry of shell limestone, ΛΙΘΟΣ ΚΟΓΧΙΤΗΣ, at Megara as a solitary example of this kind of stone in Greece; he observes that it was soft, white, and quite full of shells.—Xenophon, in the Anabasis, more than once mentions temples and other buildings constructed of a similar stone. The professed writers on minerals, however, scarcely allude to the subject. Theophrastus mentions an ostracites, but in such a manner that it is not clear whether he meant an organic remain or not. Pliny only says of a fossil of the same name that it had the figure of a shell; and though he describes under various fanciful names, what appear to have been Belemnites, Ammonites, Echinites, Encrinites, Corallites, and casts of Cardia, &c. does not betray any suspicion of their true origin. The same writers mention the occurrence of fossil bones and ivory equally without remark.

‡ The arguments which Aristotle brings in support of this are deduced from a fanciful notion that the Earth was partially subject to a change like