

and they may perhaps be right. If we consider Neptune the author of earthquakes, and consider the violent concussion of the mountains caused by them as the work of this deity, we must, upon surveying these regions, confess that they owe their present shape to him ; for the separation of every mountain appears to me to have been produced by some violent commotion of the earth." Strabo makes mention of this tradition, which he thought worthy of belief, and accounts for the origin of the Vale of Tempe, which is the bed of the river Peneus, and likewise for the separation of Ossa from Olympus, by means of an earthquake *. In making this remark, we perceive that our theories which allow that earthquakes are to operate in forming the surface of the earth, have not even the merit of novelty. According to the last writer, similar eruptions of water must have originated in the lake Copais in Bœotia †, in the lakes Bistonis and Aphnetis, in Thrace, and have been accompanied with huge devastation ‡. Diodorus Siculus § remembered a Samothracian tradition, according to which the Euxine

* T. ix. c. 6. Claudian describes this occurrence in the following words :

“ Cum Thessaliam scopulis inclusa teneret
Peneo stagnante palus, et mersa negarent
Arva coli, trifida Neptunus cuspide montes
Impulit adversos : tum forti saucius ictu
Dissiluit gelido vertex Ossæus Olympo.”

De raptu Proserp. l. ii. v. 179.

† L. i. c. 3.

‡ According to Wheeler, who was on the spot, it appears to have broken through the Mount Ptous.

§ Bibliothec. Historic. l. v. c. 47.