

In committing them to paper he ingeniously contrived to put them into the mouth of an Indian philosopher, but even with this precaution he did not venture to publish them, and his treatise only saw the light at Amsterdam in 1748, ten years after his death. It bore the title of *Telliamed* [his own name spelt backwards] *ou Entretiens d'un Philosophe Indien avec un Missionnaire Français*.

The main purport of the book is to demonstrate that this globe was once completely surrounded with water, which has been gradually disappearing and will continue to diminish, until the planet is desiccated and is finally burnt up by the outbreak of volcanic forces from within. We cannot doubt, so the author believed, that this globe is the work of the sea and has been formed in its bosom, in the same way that similar formations are even now deposited in its waters. All mountains consist of sand, mud or other sedimentary materials, and have been formed by the sea. The oldest and highest are composed of a simple and uniform substance, in which few or no traces of animal life have been preserved. As the sea, in its subsidence, laid bare the summits of these earliest mountains, the waves beat on their sides, and the materials of new mountains were thus obtained, in which organic remains became increasingly abundant. That the various sediments should be arranged one above another in successive strata, is shown to be what might be expected from the action of the sea along its coasts and over its bottom at the present time. Emphasis is laid on the prodigious abundance of marine fossils from