

CHAP. II.

EFFECTS OF WATER ON THE SURFACE OF THE
EARTH.

29. **H**AVING now described all the varieties of inequality observed on the surface of the dry land, it will be interesting to endeavour to discover how these have been formed.

Many of the elevations and hollows appear to be original formations, while others seem to be more particularly the effects of the action of the atmosphere and the ocean, and volcanic fire. We shall consider each of these in particular.

30. Water acts either Chemically or Mechanically on the surface of the earth: and it may further be considered, according to its Destroying and Forming effects.

We shall first consider the *Mechanical Destroying Effects of water.*

Every long-continued rain convinces us of the powerful mechanical effects of water on the surface of the earth. The precipitated water penetrates the surface, then flows along mixed with the matter of the soil, and in its course forms small water-courses, and occasions considerable changes in the flat country and the declivities of mountains. As it rains a very considerable portion of
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