

the year, and as every rain carries along with it a quantity of the soil, very obvious changes must in this manner be induced on the surface of the globe. Thunder-storms and water-spouts, although more uncommon phenomena, produce more considerable changes, and this either alone, or when their waters join or flow into rivers. These deprive whole districts of their soil to the bare rock; they sometimes even form small ravines, and break down and carry away great masses of rock, that were either formerly much rent, or of such a form, as to be easily overpowered by water. If such changes take place in the low land, they must be vastly more considerable in the high land.

The thaw-floods that take place in low countries towards the end of winter and beginning of spring, and in mountainous districts during summer, occasion still greater changes on the surface of the earth. Their effects are truly frightful, particularly when accompanied with rain. The declivities in low countries, over which water flows, are less considerable than in high countries; and besides, the water can extend itself farther in low and flat countries; hence its destroying effects are diminished in intensity. In mountainous countries, on the contrary, the fall is much greater than in flat countries, and the water is compressed into narrow rocky valleys; hence it follows, that rain-floods must be more destructive, the more
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