

question has been, Whether this fluidity was the effect of Fire or Water*.

Rocks which have been formed or altered by the action of Heat, are most distinctly different from those that constitute the great mass of the crust of the globe; consequently this fluidity cannot be attributed to the agency of heat.

Sir JAMES HALL, a most indefatigable chemist, has published a series of curious experiments on the effects of heat on mineral substances; but the results do not apply to the present question. My colleague Professor PLAYFAIR, in his eloquent work on the formation of minerals, has endeavoured, with the greatest address, to support what has been denominated the Plutonic formation of the globe. But the substances formed by Sir James Hall in his experiments, cannot be confounded with any of those rocks that constitute the crust of the globe; nor have the ingenuity and ability displayed in the Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory, removed

* It has been said, that the figure of the Earth cannot be satisfactorily explained on the Neptunian system, because the earth is not a solid of revolution. This apparently plausible objection will vanish, when we reflect, that the Neptunian system only considers the earth to have had the spheroidal shape when it was in a fluid form; but that, during the formation of its solid parts, it may have deviated more or less from that form, according to the inequality of the various depositions.