

occurrence ; and besides, these partial elevations of the water depend on particular circumstances, which can in general be pointed out. Thus, the change in the direction of currents, produced by the accumulation of water by winds, the alteration of the shape of coasts, and of the surface of the land, and many other causes, produce alterations in the level of the ocean. The great and incontrovertible proofs which the internal structure and external aspect of mountains afford, of the diminution of the waters of the globe, were totally unknown to Linnæus and those philosophers who supported the theory of its diminution. It is therefore not surprising that it should have been considered as in some degree doubtful. The observations of Linnæus were too local and confined, and by no means permitted the use he attempted to make of them.

It was reserved for WERNER to give this theory stability. With his usual acuteness, he soon discovered that the important documents for the illustration of this great phenomenon, were not to be sought for in the formations that have taken place within the limits of human history, but in the mountains themselves, those mighty aquatic formations. His investigations were attended with complete success ; for he discovered, 1st, *That the outgoings of the newer strata are generally lower than the outgoings of the older, from granite downwards to the alluvial depositions, and this not in particular spots, but around the whole globe.* 2d, *That*  
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