

2. Veins do not present horizontal depositions *, but
 mulated at the bottom of the sea, we perceive the same
 materials of which these strata are composed. The same
 does not equally hold of veins. "Look, says Dr Hut-
 ton, into the sources of our mineral treasures! Ask the
 miner, from whence has come the metal in his veins?
 Not from the earth, or air above, nor from the strata
 which the vein traverses: these do not contain an atom of
 the minerals now considered. There is but one place
 from whence these materials may have come; this is the
 bowels of the earth; *the place of power and expansion*;
 the place from whence has proceeded that intense heat, by
 which loose materials have been consolidated into rocks, as
 well as that enormous force, by which the regular strata
 have been broken and displaced!" The above is a very
 just and natural reflection; but if, instead of interrogating
 the miner, we consult the Neptunist, we will receive a
 very different reply. As this philosopher never embar-
 rasses himself about preserving uniformity in the course
 of nature, he will tell us, that though it may be true,
 that neither the air, the upper part of the earth's sur-
 face, nor even the sea, contain at present any thing like
 the materials of the veins; yet the time was, when these
 materials were all mingled together in the chaotic mass,
 and constituted one vast fluid, encompassing the earth;
 from which fluid it was, that the minerals were precipi-
 tated and deposited in the clefts and fissures of the strata."
Playfair's Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory, p. 247,
 248.

* "If veins were filled by deposition from above, we
 ought to discover in them such horizontal stratification, as
 is