

remarkable feature, namely, the inequality of its elevations, be considered, it is plain that these are merely convertible propositions. With the forms of continents or the distribution of islands, geology can therefore have no concern, otherwise than as these are necessary consequences of differences of elevation, and are dependent on Geological causes.

Those who have treated of physical geography, have attempted many generalizations on this subject; but these seem to establish no principles, and they add nothing to that knowledge which may be derived with much more ease from the inspection of a terrestrial globe. If we examine what has been written on the directions of Capes and coasts, or the correspondences of bays and head-lands, we shall find nothing which can be referred to any general law. Whatever modifications exist, they are particular cases; and, wherever they occur, they depend on the altitudes and directions of elevated land, or on the positions of the mouths of rivers; circumstances which, as far as they are subject to any rules, will be examined hereafter.

The greatest elevation of land has been measured; but its greatest depression, being concealed by the sea, is beyond the reach of our instruments. Thus we are still ignorant of the quantity by which the least extreme diameters of the solid earth differ from the mean mathematical ones.

But by La Place's computation, founded on the theory of the tides, the mean depth of the sea must be four leagues. If we admit that to be only its extreme depth, and that the height of the Himálya ridge is 5 miles, we shall have a minimum diameter differing from the greatest by $\frac{1}{470}$ part, nearly, of the mean. But whatever the maximum differences of such inequalities are now, it is certain that they have once