

*Diversities of all the Systems.*

According to one system, every thing has been successively precipitated by crystallization, and deposited nearly as it exists at present; but the sea, which covered all, has gradually retired\*.

According to another, the materials of which the mountains consist, are incessantly worn down and carried off by the rivers to be deposited at the bottom of the sea, where they are heated under an enormous pressure, and form strata, which are one day to be violently lifted up by the heat which consolidates them †.

A third supposes the fluid divided into a multitude of lakes, placed, like the seats of an amphitheatre, above each other, which, after having deposited our shelly strata, have successively broken their dikes, to descend and fill the basin of the ocean ‡.

According to a fourth, tides of seven or eight hundred fathoms depth have carried off, from time to time, the matter lying at the bottom of the sea,

\* Delam  therie, in his "G  ologie," admits crystallization as the principal agent.

† Hutton and Playfair.—Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory of the Earth. Edin. 1802.

‡ Lamanon,—in various parts of the Journal de Physique,—after Michaelis, and several others.