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Thus, all marble, lime-stone, and chalk, are found to consist of precisely the *same materials* as every marine shell; all are formed of lime and carbonic acid; and it is therefore evident, that when the masses of shells shall be so far acted upon by the moisture of the earth, rains, internal fires, and mineral *solvents*, as to lose their forms, and be converted into powder; that these agents, acting on and percolating through them in various degrees, will reduce them into beds of chalk, or lime-stone, or marble, and, I think it not improbable, the chalk and lime-stone formations of the earth have been, in the course of ages, formed in this manner.— This idea I have seen confirmed by Mr. John Wesley, in his "Survey of the Wisdom of God in the Creation." He says, in vol. 2d, page 256, "Chalk is no more than the ruins of sea shells, and lime-stones consist of the same bodies cemented together by stony matter." Again "where the tree falls there it lays," says the Proverb. Any person who has seen and noticed the aboriginal forests of the earth, will have observed these trees in various stages of decay, many of them reduced to a state of dust or earth; and these causes, in the course of time, form hills and hillocks. In accounting for the origin of peat earth and morasses of black soil in Britain, a late writer has therefore very properly, I think, assigned their origin to arise from the gradual falling and decay of trees in ancient times, which, falling in marshy or swampy places, have decayed and acquired their black colour. In a great many parts of America, it is well known, large tracts of land are found in this state, being covered by masses of black earth of