

had any opportunity of examining the coast in the latitude where he afterwards recognized the Archipelago of St. Lazarus.

Observations made in different parts of the world, afford strong proofs that the sea once covered the surface of the earth, from whence it has been raised by the effect of subterranean fire. Without entering further into the subject, I shall only remark, that there are many appearances in the northern parts of the American continent, which favour the opinion of several respectable authors, who suppose, that it emerged at a later period than the other continent above the surface of the sea; as a great number of volcanos still exist on the north-west coast, and the chain of islands which extend between the two continents, called the Fox Islands, appear to have been formed by volcanic eruptions. It has indeed been supposed that some parts of Spitzbergen have very lately been raised out of the sea; as above a league within land, beyond the mountains which form the sea coast, the mast of a ship, with part of the rigging, was found some years since (q).

X 2

On

(q) *Recueil des Voyages du Nord, Tom 1, page 154.*

But this ought not to be considered as a proof, that the sea once covered the land where the mast was found; as the greater part of Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla is, in all probability, an accumulation of ice covered with a small proportion of soil. Wood, who was shipwrecked upon Nova Zembla in 1676, says, that "most part of the country is covered perpetually with snow, and that that is bare is not to be walked on, being like bogs, upon whose superficies grows a moss, which beareth a small blue and yellow flower; under the superficies of this earth, about two feet deep, after we had dug so low, we came to a firm body of ice, which, as I think, was never heard of before; so these men that did imagine, if they were forced to winter to the northward, would dig caves in the earth to preserve and

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