

the deluge was inhabited by the same species of men and animals, and must necessarily have been nearly such as it is at present. The sacred writings in fact teach us, that before the deluge there were rivers, seas, mountains, forests, and plants; that these rivers and mountains were, for the most part, retained in the same situations, for the Tigris and Euphrates were the rivers of the ancient paradise; that the mountain of Armenia, on which the ark rested, was one of the highest mountains in the world at the deluge, as it is at present: that the same plants and animals which exist now, existed then; for we read of the serpent, of the raven, of the crow, and of the dove, which brought the olive branch into the ark; for though Tournefort asserts there are no olive trees for more than 400 miles from Mount Ararat, and passes some absurd jokes thereon*, it is nevertheless certain there were olives in this neighbourhood at the time of the deluge, since holy writ assures us of it in the most express terms; but it is by no means astonishing that in the space of 4000 years the olive trees should have been destroyed in those quarters, and multiplied in others; it

* Voyage du Levant, vol. 2, page 336.