

from, they envelope themselves in the clouds of a physical theology, the obscurity and minuteness of which is derogatory to the simplicity and dignity of religion, and only affords an opportunity for the incredulous to preceive a ridiculous mixture of human ideas and divine truths. To pretend to explain the universal deluge, and its physical causes; to attempt to teach what passed in the time of that great revolution; to divine what were the effects of it; to add facts to those of holy writ, to draw consequences from such facts, is only a presumptuous attempt to measure the power of the Most High. The miracles which his benevolent hand performs, in a uniform and regular manner, are incomprehensible; and by the strongest reason, these wonderful operations and miracles ought to hold us in awful wonder, and in silent adoration.

But, say they, the universal deluge being a certain fact, is it not permitted to reason on its consequences? It may be so; but it is requisite that you should begin by allowing that the deluge could not be performed by physical causes; you ought to consider it is an immediate effect of the will of the Almighty; you ought to confine yourselves to know only what