

Here then is a combination of facts, a series of epochs anterior to the present, the order of which can be infallibly verified, although the period of their intervals cannot be precisely defined. They

could only have been effected by surprising eruptions. MM. de Buch and Escher have employed themselves on this subject more recently. The memoir of the latter, inserted in 'La Nouvelle Alpina de Steinmuller,' vol. i., details the whole in a remarkable manner, of which this is the summary:—Those blocks which are scattered in the lowlands of Switzerland or Lombardy came from the Alps, and have descended along the valleys. They are in all parts and of all dimensions, even to fifty thousand cubic feet, in the great extent which separates the Alps from Mount Jura, and they are found on the declivities of Jura which front the Alps to the height of four thousand feet above the level of the sea; they are on the surface or in the superficial layers of remains, but not in those of freestone, or pudding stone, which may occupy nearly the whole space in question; they are sometimes found perfectly isolated, sometimes in masses: the height of their situation has no relation to the size, only that the smaller appear sometimes a little worn, but the larger not at all so. Those which form the bed of any river are found, on examination, of the same kind as the mountains of the peaks or sides of the high valleys, whence arise the sources of these rivers; we observe them in the valleys, and they are found accumulated especially in those places where they are narrowest; they have passed over defiles when they have not exceeded four thousand feet; and then we see them on the other sides of the summits in the cantons between the Alps and Jura and on Jura itself; it is opposite the openings of the valleys of the Alps that they are seen of greatest size and in greatest numbers; those in the space between are carried less high: in the chains of Jura, the most distant from the Alps, they are only found in places exactly opposite to the openings of the nearest chains.

From these facts, the author draws this conclusion, that the conveyance of the blocks took place subsequently to the deposits of freestone and pudding stone: that it was probably effected at the last revolution of this globe. He compares their removal to that which still occurs amongst the torrents; but the objection of the vastness of the blocks, and that of the depth of the intervening valleys, seem to us to offer a powerful opposition to this part of his hypothesis.