

Syria,(1) and eventually the Greeks gave the name of Deucalion to the whole of them.(2)

But none of these traditions places this cataclysm very remote; none of them is incapable of explanation, either as to its date or any other circumstances, by the changes which tradition must undergo, to which no precise date has been assigned by any written document.

THE VERY REMOTE ANTIQUITY ATTRIBUTED TO  
SOME NATIONS IS NOT HISTORICALLY TRUE.

Those who are desirous of assigning a very remote antiquity to the continents and the establishment of nations, are compelled to have recourse to the Indians, to the Chaldeans, and the Egyptians, three people who in fact appear the most anciently civilized of the Caucasian race; but three people singularly resembling each other, not only in temperament, through the climate and the nature of the soil which they inhabit, but still more so in the political and religious constitution which they had framed, but whose testimony this very similarity of constitution must render equally suspicious.(3)

(1) Lucian de Deâ Syrâ.

(2) Arnobus contra Gent. lib. v. from 158, speaks of a rock in Phrygia, whence he pretends that Deucalion and Pyrrha took their stones.

(3) This similarity of institutions goes to so great an extent, that it is quite natural to suppose that they had a common origin. We must not forget that many ancient authors have thought that the Egyptian institutions came from Ethiopia; and that Lyn-