

even entire cities, have, within the times of history, been buried under volcanic ejections, submerged beneath the sea, or engulfed by earthquakes; and had these catastrophes been repeated throughout an indefinite lapse of ages, the high antiquity of man would have been inscribed in far more legible characters on the framework of the globe than are the forms of the ancient vegetation which once covered the islands of the northern ocean, or of those gigantic reptiles, which, at still later periods, peopled the seas and rivers of the northern hemisphere.*

The recent creation of man is a fact of vast importance and interest, in whatever aspect or relation it may be viewed. I shall have occasion to speak of it again. At present I only adduce it as proving that, by the testimony of geology itself, the Scriptures give a just view of the age of the earth, in so far as it is the world of man, and in no other aspect did it concern us as moral agents to be made acquainted with its chronicles.

Fossil remains bear testimony not only to the appearance of new tribes, but to the disappearance of former tribes. And as geology shows

* Prin. of Geol., b. i., ch. ix.