

contained in the ark ; as in Milton's description the fallen angels were made sufficiently dwarfish to be accommodated in the hall of pandæmonium :

' Behold a wonder ! they but now who seemed
In bigness to surpass earth's giant sons,
Now less than smallest dwarfs in narrow room
Throng numberless.'

Another miracle could have supplied the animals with their proper food, or changed their mode of life altogether. But the supposition of such miracles is highly improbable, not to say irreverent. When we are confuting the prodigies of the heathen, we are accustomed to point out their want of adequate object—their apparent uselessness ; and we ought not rashly to expose the miracles of Scripture to a similar reproach.

If we adopt the principle which Scripture itself so unequivocally sanctions—that general terms may be used with a limited sense—the whole account is simple and consistent. A deluge of great extent inundated the dry land. In respect to men, whom it was designed to punish for their wickedness, it was universal, excepting only Noah and his family, whom it pleased God* to spare alive. Along with them were preserved