

such animals as were most useful to them, and such as were fitted to fulfil the purposes of Providence after the waters should have retired.

THE TESTIMONY OF TRADITION.

2. The deluge of Noah has general tradition in its favour. We find it in the mythologies of the Egyptians, Hindoos, Chinese, South Sea Islanders, etc. etc. Some have maintained that these traditions relate to different deluges, and that each country has magnified the reminiscences of its own floods. But there are adequate grounds for rejecting this explanation. It is not easy to suppose that there have been in all countries inundations of such magnitude, within the human period, as to originate in all of them such wonderful legends. Besides, these traditions have so much in common with the scriptural narrative, as to prove the identity of their source. We find in them not the flood only, but the ark, the raven, the dove, the olive leaf, and other particulars. It has been also shown that the traditionary accounts correspond more closely with the scriptural narrative as we approach