

the great design of his life to subvert. And, with an unfairness too characteristic of his sparkling but unsolid writings, we find him arguing, that all fossil-shells were either those of fresh-water lakes and rivers evaporated during dry seasons, or of land-snails developed in unusual abundance during wet ones ; or that they were shells which had been dropped from the hats of pilgrims on their way from the Holy Land to their homes ; or that they were shells that had gone astray from cabinets and museums ; or, finally, that they were not shells at all, but mere shell-like forms, produced by some occult process of nature in the bowels of the earth. In fine, in order to destroy the credibility of the Noachian Deluge, the brilliant Frenchman exhausted every expedient in his attempts to neutralise that Palæontologic evidence on which geologists now found some of their most legitimate conclusions. But he only succeeded, instead, in producing compositions of which every sentence contains either an absurdity or an untruth, and in raising a re-action against the special school of infidelity which he had founded, that at length bore it down. He wrote in the middle of the Paris basin, with its multitude of fossil-shells and bones ; and, when penning his article for the Encyclopædia, he had, he tells us, a boxful of the shell-charged soil of the Faluns of Touraine actually before him ; but the Deluge had to be put down, whatever the nature or bearing of the facts ; and so he could find in either no evidence of a time when the sea had covered the land. He found, instead, only “ some mussels, because there were ponds in the neighbourhood.” As for “ the spiral petrifications termed *cornu ammonis*,” of which the Jurassic Alps are full, they were not nautili, he said ; they could be nothing else than reptiles ; seeing that reptiles take almost always the form of a spiral when not in motion ; and it was surely more likely, that when petrified they should still retain the spiral disposition, than that “ the Indian Ocean should have long