

axis of rotation or the earth's centre of gravity had undergone changes of position.

Hooke further gave some valuable hints about the alteration of organic remains by the process of petrefaction, and cited as examples the petrified stems of trees in Africa and in the kingdom of Ava. His explanation of the elevated position in which fossil marine organisms are now found was based upon his theory of earthquakes. Earthquakes, he thought, transformed plains into mountains, and continents into ocean basins. He attributed earthquakes and volcanic eruptions to the agency of subterranean fire.

Scarcely had the organic origin and historical significance of fossils been successfully vindicated, than the doctrinal influences of the day stepped in and claimed all fossil forms as vestiges from the earlier creation interred in the earth during the great Deluge. The "Diluvialists" formed a powerful party amongst the geologists of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and were warmly supported by the Church. In England, Woodward, Burnet, and Whiston had strong convictions in this direction; while in Germany, Wedel and Baier, and in Switzerland Johann Scheuchzer, taught that all fossils had been spread through Europe during the Flood.

Scheuchzer had in his first work (*Specimen Lithogr. Helveticæ Curiosæ*, 1702) regarded fossils as sports of nature, but under the influence of Woodward's work, which he translated into Latin, he became an enthusiastic believer in the theory of a diluvial distribution of fossils. His natural history of Switzerland contains a special chapter, which professes to deal with the fossil remains left by the Flood in Switzerland. Towards the close of his life, Scheuchzer thought he had discovered in the beds of Oeningen "the bony skeleton of one of these infamous men whose sins brought upon the world the dire misfortune of the deluge." But the supposed *homo diluvii* from Oeningen was afterwards determined by Cuvier to have been a gigantic Salamander, and was called *Andrias Scheuchzeri* in honour of its Swiss discoverer. The original specimen of Scheuchzer's *Andrias* is now in the Teyler Museum at Haarlem.

The strong personality of Scheuchzer and his success as a teacher won for him during his life-time a large circle of scientific supporters, and contributed not a little to a more