

years, until the moist and fertile superficial layer was dried by the heat of the sun, and began to rend and crack. The waters below became heated, vapours rose, and bursting through the fertile layer, came into contact with the atmosphere. The intermingling of air and vapour produced fearful storms of thunder and lightning and torrential rains.

The superficial layer broke in many places, and portions of it sank into the earth's abysses. As they fell, some parts were crushed, and tumbled in disorder above one another, so that they formed mountains, valleys, and islands. This was the period of the great Deluge, during which plants and living creatures were almost all destroyed. As the floods retreated the present state of our earth was initiated, but it also will one day pass away in a universal conflagration. Then will succeed a second Chaos from which the Golden Age will spring.

Burnet's circumstantial sketch, which in no way militated against Biblical evidences, excited considerable attention, and won for him worldly preferment. But in a later work in 1692, Burnet treated the Mosaic account of the Fall of Man as an allegory, and for this heresy he was dismissed from his appointments at Court.

John Woodward,¹ the collector and palæontologist, was the most famous English representative of the religious school of geologists. His *Natural History of the Earth and Terrestrial Bodies*, etc. (London, 1695), was translated into Latin by Johann Scheuchzer, and had a wide circulation. In this work, Woodward described his collection of fossils, minerals, metals, and rock specimens. He strongly opposed the opinion that fossils could be mere imitative sports of nature, and said they represented past faunas and floras. But he supposed these remains to have been carried to their present position in the earth by a universal flood, the deluge of the Scriptures.

Before the Flood, the earth's surface conformation had been similar to that which we now know, and the ante-diluvial forms of life on the globe had not differed materially from post-diluvial forms. The earth's interior had been filled with

¹ John Woodward, born 1665, in Derbyshire, studied medicine under a practical physician in Gloucester, was appointed Professor at Gresham College in London in 1692, died 1722. He bequeathed his valuable collection and library to the University of Cambridge. One of the most violent opponents of Woodward's views was Elias Camerarius, Professor at Tübingen.