

a human population. Some of these land-surfaces, remaining long exposed to the open-air, were covered with new strata, which when they differed in composition from those buried below them, would produce plants and animals distinct from any of those which had previously existed on the same sites. And since the newer strata were not all laid down universally and at the same time, but successively during the course of centuries and at different seasons of the year, seeds and fruits in mature and immature condition would be entombed, as may be illustrated by many examples that have actually been obtained from excavations in which, at different levels, old soils represent inhabited and cultivated surfaces of land.

Moro had to take care that his cosmogony did not contradict but only supplemented the orthodox reading of the first Chapter of the Book of Genesis. That he succeeded in this aim is indicated by the imprimatur at the end of his treatise, wherein the reformers of studies testify that the book contains nothing contrary to the Holy Catholic Faith, nor anything adverse to Princes or to morals. Though he declined to adopt the popular notion that the stratified rocks had been formed during Noah's Flood, he still felt bound to account for their deposition within the orthodox limits of time. Public attention had been called to the rapid accumulation of materials around active volcanic vents, and Moro, availing himself of the original suggestion of Majoli, boldly claimed that all the stratified rocks which form the mountains consist of materials successively erupted by volcanoes. He does not seem to have ever studied the nature of true