

valleys that began to run down the slopes of the Chalk from the then dominant ridge that first appeared as dry land during or after the Eocene period?<sup>1</sup>

Here we find the germ of the explanation afterwards advocated by Ramsay, and elaborated by C. Le Neve Foster and William Topley.

It should not, however, be forgotten that Conybeare, in 1829, read before the Society a paper on the Valley of the Thames, and contrasted the extensive denudations which must have occurred with the permanence of its present surface; and he then remarked that to explain the distribution of the gravel by the operation of the actual rivers, it was necessary 'to suppose that an uniform plain originally existed from the summit of Highgate to the Hertfordshire chalk downs, and from the top of Shooter's Hill to those of Kent.'<sup>2</sup>

Lyell has given some account of the discussion on that paper, when Greenough observed that no river 'within times of history has deepened its channel one foot!' while Conybeare 'admits three deluges before the Noachian! and Buckland adds God knows how many *catastrophes* besides, so we have driven them out of the Mosaic record fairly.'<sup>3</sup>

These remarks are of interest when we consider the modern views as expounded, with modifications, by Professor William Morris Davis.

Moreover, the strongly expressed doctrines on diluvial action held by Buckland and Conybeare, and opposed by Lyell, are supported to some extent now by those who urge that much excavation was done by torrential waters derived from the melting of great areas of land-ice. Again, our notions of the origin of some gorges may require modification when we consider the evidence brought forward by Professor Percy F. Kendall and others,<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* xviii. p. 400.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Geol. Soc.* i. p. 148.

<sup>3</sup> 'Life, Letters, and Journals of Lyell,' i. p. 252.

<sup>4</sup> See F. W. Harmer, *Geol. Mag.* 1906, p. 470.