

as we approach the surface, if theory has not quite deceived us, there are fewer remains of the extinct quadrupeds, and more numerous specimens of such as now inhabit the earth. We find in the different strata the bones of the mammoth, the megatherium, the elephant, the tapir, the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus, the stag, the ox, the horse, and with them the skeletons of their natural enemies of the feline tribe, and the bear and the hyæna, the bones of which prove them to have been of greater strength and size than those that are now alive.

Over the earth's surface, as thus formed, there are evidences that a deluge has swept with inconceivable power, brushing off the superficial strata, rolling immense rocks, and depositing the debris, so as to fill chasms, form new accumulations, and once more to change the whole character of the earth's surface.* It was then that it assumed its present confines of land and sea, and that the valleys and the courses of rivers were determined. Out of these convulsions and successive revolutions has come that condition of the world which we now enjoy, and, as I shall have occasion to repeat, no previous state of the earth's surface would have been suitable to our constitution.

The waters as they flow to the ocean, and as

* See *Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*, by Professor Buckland.