

siderably decrease the total amount. But, even then, how vast would be the increase. If two fifths of this body were deducted, a deluge of rain for forty days and forty nights over the whole globe, would fall infinitely short of the amount of water required to cover it to this height. The mean quantity of rain that now falls upon the earth in the course of a whole year is short of three feet; there must therefore have been an outbreak of waters from a source which could supply all that was necessary to accomplish the will of the Almighty, and make the earth itself a ruin, as well as sweep off its inhabitants; and where shall we look for this but to the abyss that *coucheth beneath* the earth, whose fountains, as the sacred historian tells us, were broken up? If we consider the diameter of our globe, and that the ocean in depth is not supposed to exceed the highest mountains, we may conceive that in a spheroid, whose diameter is 8000 miles, allowing for the depth of the crust of the earth, there is a space for a treasure-house of water, of sufficient amplitude to supply what the heavens could not furnish, to raise the diluvial waters to the height decreed in the Divine counsels. It seems now agreed amongst geologists and mineralogists that traces of the action of fire, as well as water, are very visible amongst the present strata of this globe: when the waters of the abyss were sent out from their hidden receptacle, it must have been by the agency of some potent cause employed by the Deity, equal to the production of the effect he intended.

In the present state of the globe, volcanoes, or their traces, are visible in various regions in all climates, and in the islands of various seas, and in Iceland, near Hecla, the subterranean furnace sends vast columns of water into the air, sometimes to the height of a hundred feet, and at the base of half that diameter.\* These circumstances render it pro-

\* See Hooker's Recollections of Iceland, 120.