

the whole globe was submerged, and the waters overtopped the highest mountains, the terrestrial animals would, in numberless cases, float upon the surface, and be deposited in countries far distant from those which they inhabited, while those that were aquatic, being in their native element, must have owed their death to other circumstances; they must either have been overwhelmed by some sudden force that they could not resist or escape from; or some cause that we cannot now appreciate may have overtaken and destroyed them.

With regard to the *numbers* of these animals, which Dr. Mantell thinks prove their prevalence, we can only judge of it by those that are found in a fossil state, and these, certainly, are sufficiently numerous; but surely it cannot be safely affirmed that for one individual found in a fossil state thousands must have been devoured or decomposed. These mighty monsters were more likely to devour than to be devoured; and even the herbivorous ones, such as the vast *Iguanodon*, supposed to be sometimes one hundred feet long* and ten feet high! would have puzzled the crocodiles and alligators and other carnivorous ones to overpower and despatch them.

But, in fact, the question is concerning those that were alive upon this globe at the time when the great convulsion took place that buried them.* The skeletons of all that were placed under similar circumstances would be found in a similar state of preservation; their flesh would be decomposed, but not their skeleton; the deluge would also interrupt all attacks of one animal upon another, every individual would be seeking to secure its own escape. But, setting

* Seventy feet is now the assumed length of the *Iguanodon*.—T. R. J.

† The views of modern geologists on this subject will be seen in Mantell's *Isle of Wight*, p. 74; in his *Wonders*, vol. i. p. 365; and in Richardson's *Geology*, *passim*.—T. R. J.