

the deluge, seems to give some credit to this tradition, and supposes that Phaleg took his name, not from the confusion of tongues at Babel, and the subsequent division of the earth amongst the families of the three sons of Noah, but from its division occasioned by the subsidence of this great island, by which the occidental were separated from the oriental countries of the globe. Philo Judæus speaks of this catastrophe in terms that imply he gave credit to it, as does also Tertullian; but it appears to me to rest on too uncertain a base, and to be too much mixed with evident fable and allegory, to claim full credit as a real fact in the history of our globe. Still that many violent convulsions have taken place since the deluge is generally supposed. Our own island is thought once to have formed part of the continent, Sicily to have been united to Italy, with many other instances mentioned by Pliny. It is equally probable that the islands of the Indian Archipelago were at one time joined to that part of Asia. Whether such disruptions from the continents were simultaneous, or took place at different periods, is uncertain; but if such an event as the submersion of the vast island of Plato did really happen, it surely would affect the whole terraqueous globe, produce convulsions far and wide, and cause various disruptions in its crust, and elevations in other parts from the bed of the ocean. It throws some weight into this scale, that thus a way would be open, though certainly a circuitous one, for the migration of those animals to America, that are found in no other part of the world, and, supposing Asia to have been disrupted from it at Behrings Straits, could scarcely have ascended to so high a latitude, in search of their destined home.

Malte-brun, in his geography, after proving that the animals in question could have passed neither from Africa nor Asia, observes—"Nothing, therefore, remains, but the accommodating resource of a tremendous convulsion of