

nature, with a vast tract of country swallowed up by the waves, which formerly united America with the temperate regions of the old world. Such conjectures as these, however, being devoid of all historical support, do not merit a moment's consideration; consequently, we cannot refrain from admitting, that the animals of America originated on the very soil, which, to this present day, they still inhabit."

That it might have been the will of the Creator to people the country in question by the immediate production of a new race of animals, suited to its climate and circumstances, I will not deny, but I would only ask, is it consistent with what occurred at the Deluge? Surely the task of Noah would have been much less difficult and laborious, had it been merely necessary for him to construct a vessel fitted for the reception of himself and family, and of food for their sustenance during their confinement; and a new race of animals had been created, adapted to the then state of the earth and mankind. But such was not the will of God, and, doubtless, for wise reasons. He would neither create a new race of men, nor a new race of animals, when the world might be re-peopled by those already in being. This would not have harmonized with the ordinary proceedings of his providence. Whoever examines the animals of North America will find a vast number that correspond with European species, distinguished only by characters that mark varieties. On the Rocky Mountains, and in the country westward of that range, Asiatic types are discoverable, both in the vegetable and animal kingdoms.* Several animals, likewise, of the southern part of that Continent belong to old world genera, and also species. I have received from Val Paraiso a beetle, common in Britain;† and Molina mentions several other European genera, as natives of Chili; so that part of the animal population of the New World

* See Appendix, Note 14.

† *Sphodrus Terricola*.