

the twenty-seventh day of the second month, the whole period of his confinement appears to have been one year and ten days. It is evident, from the period that intervened between the resting of the ark and the subsequent emergence of the tops of the mountains more than two months afterwards,\* that the subsidence of the waters at first was very gradual; but in proportion as their volume diminished, it probably became more and more rapid.

The tumult and violence of the *descending* waters, and the effects produced by them, in the new mixture; as it were, of the substances now forming the crust of our globe, and the putting it into its present order—always under the direction and guidance of the Deity, *who sitteth above the water-flood*, employing as his hands those physical agents which rule in nature to fulfil his purpose—must have been the reverse of those of the *ascending* ones: the object now was not disruption, and dislocation, and destruction, but to form anew the earth and its heavens which had been thus destroyed, and by the addition of a vast body of fresh materials not entering into the composition of the old crust of the former, to render it materially different from it; and that when the attention of mankind was directed to the study of God's works, and of those remains of the former world, a proof might be supplied of the existence of this sad catastrophe, confirmative of the account given in Holy Scripture, and adding to the force of the warning that universal corruption will be a prelude to universal destruction.

When we consider what an infinite host of animals of every description must have perished in the diluvial waters, as well as the incalculable magnitude of the mass of vegetable substances that must have been severed by the violence of the conflicting waters from the earth's surface, or uprooted afterwards in consequence of its being so thoroughly

\* Gen. viii. 4, 5.