

mighty disruptions take place, and other changes to which there could be no witnesses, but which can only be conjectured by the features such countries now exhibit.

NOTE 11, p. 84.—*We learn from the Apostle, St. Peter, that the primeval globe, and its heavens or atmosphere, perished at the deluge.* I shall add a few words here on the passage of St. Peter alluded to in the text. Speaking of the scoffers of the last days, and of the deluge, *Whereby, he says, the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished; he adds, But the heavens and earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, &c.* In this passage it must be observed that the term *world* in the sixth verse is synonymous with the *heavens and the earth* taken together of the fifth and seventh verses, and by it seems to be meant that the earth with its own heavens, or the atmosphere that surrounds it, both *perished* or were *destroyed*,\* which is rendered further evident by the expression: *But the heavens and earth which are now.* From which it may be gathered that the heavens and the earth *which are now*, are different from the heavens and earth which were destroyed at the deluge; and as the latter has evidently been re-constructed, and vegetable and animal remains have been mixed with the dislocated materials and as it were *detritus* of the original world;† so the new atmosphere might be, and probably was differently mixed, so as to be less friendly to health and longevity, which would account *physically* for the gradual reduction of the former extended period of human life to its present brief standard. Animals as well as man might be affected by this change, their bulk might be diminished, and other variations be produced in them which have not been ascertained. When God fixed upon

\* Gr. ἀπώλετο.

† See above, p. 351, and Herschel in *Cab. Cyclop.* xiv. 141. No. 135.