

we please of it, and the probability will be in proportion as a man has talents to elucidate what he asserts. To affirm as Whiston has done, that the earth was originally a comet, or, with Leibnitz, that it has been a sun, is saying things equally possible or impossible, and to which it would be ridiculous to apply the rules of probability. To say that the sea formerly covered all the earth, that it surrounded the whole globe, and that it is for this reason shells are every where found, is not paying attention to a very essential point, the unity of the time of the creation; for if that were so, it must necessarily be admitted, that shell-fish, and other inhabitants of the sea, of which we find the remains in the internal part of the earth, existed long before man, and all terrestrial animals. Now, independently of the testimony of holy writ, is it not reasonable to think, that all animals and vegetables are nearly co-eval in point of primary existence.

M. Scheuchtzer, in a Dissertation, addressed to the Academy of Sciences in 1708, attributes, like Woodward, the change, or rather the second formation of the surface of the globe, to the universal deluge; and to explain that of mountains, he says, that after the deluge, God chusing to return
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