

“ The grand fact of *an universal deluge* at no very remote period is proved on grounds so decisive and incontrovertible, that, had we never heard of such an event from Scripture, or any other authority, Geology of itself must have called in the assistance of some such catastrophe, to explain the phænomena of diluvian action which are universally presented to us, and which are unintelligible without recourse to a deluge exerting its ravages at a period not more ancient than that announced in the Book of Genesis.

“ It is highly satisfactory to find the following strong statement on this subject, published by one who deservedly ranks in the very first class of natural observers, and in the very centre of continental philosophy. ‘ It may be seen,’ says Cuvier, ‘ that nature every where distinctly informs us that the commencement of *the present order of things cannot be dated at a very remote period*; and it is remarkable that mankind every where speak the same language with nature.’ And in another place he adds, ‘ I am of opinion with M. Deluc and M. Dolomieu, that if there is any circumstance thoroughly established in Geology, it is that the crust of our globe has been subjected to a great and sudden revolution, the epoch of which cannot be dated much farther back than five or six thousand years ago; and that this revolution had buried all the countries *which were before inhabited by men and by the other animals that are now best known.*’ Theory of the Earth, § 34.”

these strata and their consolidation (a process which must have evidently required time) to one and the same *transient* convulsion with their subsequent partial destruction: this argument becomes stronger when we remember that there are interposed among the strata themselves many beds of similar gravel (for instance beds consisting of rounded fragments of carboniferous limestone associated with the more recent deposits of the second red sandstone), the unavoidable inference is, that the rock whence these pebbles were formed must in every instance have been consolidated before the rock containing them was deposited; yet in the instance before us the deposition of the conglomerate rock must have preceded that of the highest strata, by the whole interval necessary to account for the formation of all the constituent beds of the oolite, sand, and chalk series; and all these again must have been consolidated before they were exposed to the action of the deluge. It matters not whether the time assigned to these effects be comparatively long or short; it seems manifest that a single year must have been totally inadequate.

Deeply convinced how injurious to the real evidence of the deluge it must prove to mingle with it phænomena which cannot, without violating every rule of physical reasoning, be ascribed to that convulsion; we have been the more particular in urging these considerations, and again most earnestly deprecate the injudicious interference of advocates, the sincerity of whose intentions cannot compensate for the want of full information concerning the real state and essential conditions of the problem whose solution they undertake.