

luge, which passed for the most ancient of all*, and which was attributed to the bursting of the Bosphorus and the Hellespont. Some idea of a similar event was preserved in Asia Minor†, and in Syria‡, and to this the Greeks would afterwards naturally attach the name of Deucalion ||.

But none of these traditions assign a very remote antiquity to this cataclysm; and there is none of them that does not admit of explanation, in so far as its date and other circumstances are concerned, from the variations to which narratives, that are not fixed by writing, must be continually liable.

The very remote Antiquity attributed to certain Nations is not supported by History.

Those who would attribute to the continents and the establishment of nations, a very remote antiquity, are therefore obliged to have recourse to the Indians, Chaldeans, and Egyptians, three

* Diodorus Siculus, lib. v. cap. xlvii.

† Stephen of Byzantium, under the word Iconium;—Zenodotus, Prov. cent. vi. No. 10.;—and Suidas, voce Nannacus.

‡ Lucian, De Deâ Syrâ.

|| Arnobius, Contra Gênt. lib. v. p. m. 158, even speaks of a rock in Phrygia, from which it was pretended that Deucalion and Pyrrha had taken their stones.