

version of its inhabitants to christianity ; and the city, which, according to Josephus, was called *the Place of the Descent*, still exists at the foot of Mount Ararat, and bears the name of *Nachidchevan*, which, in fact, has the same signification. *

Along with the Armenians, we include the Arabians, Persians, Turks, Mongolians, and Abyssinians, of the present day. Their ancient books, if they ever had any, no longer exist. They have no ancient history, but that which they have recently made up, and which they have modelled after the Bible ; hence, what they say of the deluge is borrowed from Genesis, and adds nothing to the authority of that book.

It were curious to inquire what had been the opinion of the ancient Persians upon this subject, before it was modified by the Christian and Mahomedan creeds. We find it deposited in their *Boundehesh*, or *Cosmogony*, a work of the time of Sassanides, (but evidently extracted or translated from more ancient works), and which was discovered by Anquetil du Perron, among the *Parsis* of India. According to it, the total duration of the world could only be 12,000 years ; hence it cannot still be very old. The appear-

* See the Preface of the Brothers Whiston, regarding Moses of Chorene, p. 4.