

grees from the bosom of the waters the different portions of our continents, and lessened the basin of the sea; but the basin has been displaced in many ways. It has often happened that lands left dry by the retiring of the waters have been again overflowed by that element, whether they have been cast down, or the waters have only flowed over them; and as to the soil left dry by the sea at its last retreat, which man and terrestrial animals now inhabit, it had been already left dry once before, and then nourished quadrupeds, birds, plants, and every kind of terrestrial productions; the sea which has left it had formerly covered it. The changes in the height of the waters have not arisen solely from a retiring, more or less gradual or general; it has proceeded from divers overflowings and divers retirings, the final result of which has been a universal sinking of the level.

PROOFS THAT THE REVOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN  
SUDDEN.

But, it is of great importance to note that these repeated irruptions and retreats have not all been gradual, not all uniform; on the contrary, the greater portion of these catastrophes have been sudden; and that is easily proved by the last of these events, that which by a twofold action inundated, and then left dry, our present continent, or at least a great portion of the soil which now composes them. It also left, in the northern countries, carcasses of large quadrupeds frozen in the ice, and which have been preserved down to the present period with their skin, their hair and their flesh. If they had not