

and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl and of cattle and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: all in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground; both man and cattle and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven: and they were destroyed from the earth. And Noah only remained [alive,] and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days. And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that were with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged. The fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained. And the waters returned from off the earth continually; and, after the end of the hundred and fifty days, the waters were abated. And the ark rested, in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat. And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.—In the six hundred and first year” (that is, of the life of Noah,) “in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked; and, behold, the face of the ground was dry. And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.” Gen. vii. 11, to viii. 14.

Thus is the tremendous fact related, by the writing which, independently of its divine authority, is the most ancient and the most credible in the world. The histories and traditions of all nations, ancient and of recent discovery, furnish ample proof that this great event is indelibly graven upon the memory of the human race. The ancient systems of mythology and polytheism are filled with idolatrous commemorations of the deluge. Those significant rites, and the traditions and historical fragments which have not entirely perished, make us acquainted with memorials of that event, as having existed among the Egyptians, Chaldeans, Phœnicians, Greeks, Celts, and Scythians, to the farthest antiquity of which