

gotten, that each of those traditionary and historical notices referred to one and the same locality, the seat of the family of Noah, the cradle of the human race. The progress of population and dispersion, however rapid we may suppose it, could never have been such as would establish any correct idea of geographical distance, from the recollection of space travelled over. Of all the notions of longitude and latitude, and determinations of distance by observation of the heavenly bodies, the migrators must have been destitute. Their abandonment of monotheism and pure religion awfully accelerated the reign of barbarism and ignorance. Hence it became a matter of next to inevitable certainty, that later generations would attach their narratives of the flood to their own immediate districts.

The connexion of this distinguished fact in the history of mankind, with the phenomena presented to geological study, has long been a favourite object of attention to many persons. But few of them have been aware of the perilous course into which they had entered. To pursue it with any rational hope of success, would require an extensive collection of particular facts, an accurate estimation of each one, a power of comparing, a sagacity in drawing inferences, and a comprehension of knowledge both physical and biblical, the thought of which cannot but fill me with anxiety. But I shall submit to my friends the statements and deductions which appear to me to be founded on sufficient evidence, in the fear of God and with the desire of promoting the interests of truth.

That the spoils of the ocean are to be found in all parts of the dry land, is a fact which, one would think, could hardly have failed to force itself upon the attention of mankind in all ages and all countries; and that the proper deduction would have been drawn from it. But such a conjecture has not been realized. Just views on