

sion, the truth lies between these extremes. During both the increase and the subsidence of the waters, a considerable action, from rushing among obstacles, would seem inevitable; but the admission of this by no means necessitates the further position, that those effects would be distinguishable to men, after the lapse of many ages: and, that they should have produced the stratifications of the earth, is a notion which must appear impossible to any one who has a tolerably correct idea of what those stratifications really are.

A remarkable passage relating to this subject, by one of the finest minds and most eminent philosophers, the late Baron Cuvier, has been often quoted, and it has a strong claim upon our attention.

“ I think therefore, with Deluc and Dolomieu, that, if there be any thing settled in geology, it is this, that the surface of our globe has been subjected to a great and sudden revolution, the date of which cannot be carried much farther back than five or six thousand years; that the revolution broke down and made to disappear the countries which had been before inhabited by men and the species of animals with which we are now best acquainted; that, on the other hand, it laid dry the bottom of the immediately preceding sea, and formed the countries which are now inhabited; that it is from the epoch of that

---

was first lifted up, and that it grounded at no great distance from the same spot.” P. 213. “ I entertain the same opinion as Linnæus on this subject; nor do I feel, though a clergyman, the slightest reason to conceal my sentiments, though they are opposed to the notions which a false philosophy has generated in the public mind. I have formed my opinions of the Noachian deluge, not from Ovid, but the Bible. There the simple narrative of Moses permits me to believe, that the waters rose upon the earth by degrees; that means were employed by the Author of the calamity, to preserve pairs of the land animals; that the flood exhibited no violent impetuosity, displacing neither the soil nor the vegetable tribes which it supported, nor rendering the ground unfit for the cultivation of the vine. With this conviction in my mind, I am not prepared to witness *in nature* any remaining *marks* of the catastrophe; and I find my respect for the authority of revelation heightened, when I see, on the present surface, *no memorials* of the event.” P. 214.