

revolution that the small number of individuals [of mankind] whom it had spared, have spread themselves and multiplied over the newly dried ground; and consequently that it is from that epoch alone that human societies have resumed their progressive advancement, have formed [social] establishments, have erected memorials of themselves, have collected the facts of nature, and have combined those facts into scientific systems. But the countries now inhabited, which had been laid dry by that last revolution, had been inhabited before, if not by men, yet at least by land animals. It follows, that preceding revolutions, one at least, had buried those regions beneath the waters; and, so far as we can judge of the question from the different orders of animals whose remains are found, it is probable that two or three such irruptions of the sea had taken place."*

It is consistent with our admiration and reverence for this great man, to remark that these observations attach to a state of geological knowledge considerably inferior to that which it has now attained. The chief design of the work from which the passage is taken, was to explain the manner in which the author had applied his knowledge of Comparative Anatomy, to the determination of the masses of bones dug up from the quarries of Paris; and which, by cautious proceeding, but in the end with the clearest demonstration, he proved to be the remains of animals, *analogous* to many in the existing creation, but all *differing* in species, and many generically. Now those formations, in various mixtures of chalk, sand, and gypsum, belong to different parts of the Tertiary division of rocks: none of them go lower. The subjects which were thus presented to the illustrious naturalist, in numbers so vast, and in a confusion which would have been overwhelming to minds of less knowledge, industry, and power than his, were more than enough to occupy his thoughts and labours, in the most unremitting manner,

* Discours sur les Révolutions de la Surface du Globe, et sur les Changemens qu'elles ont produit dans le Règne Animal; p. 138. Third Edition. Paris, 1826.