

One of the ornaments of Geology, in our own country, has indeed gone through a course of sentiment not much unlike that which I have been supposing in relation to Cuvier. Dr. Buckland, in his *Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*, published in 1823, quoted a part of the passage which I read, a few minutes ago; and gave the sanction of his so deservedly high authority to the idea, that the present surface of the earth is the effect of the diluvial waters. While he was enriching his pages with the pleasing citation, he was furnishing his illustrious friend at Paris with a *seeming* corroboration of the opinion. Speaking of the mud, gravel, and bones of the Kirkdale Caves, Baron Cuvier proceeds:

“Most carefully described by Prof. Buckland, under the name of *diluvium*, and exceedingly different from those other beds of similarly rolled materials, which are constantly deposited by torrents and rivers, and contain only bones of the animals existing in the country, and to which Mr. Buckland gives the name of *alluvium*; they now form, in the eyes of all geologists, the fullest proof to the senses of that immense inundation which came the last in the catastrophes of our globe.”*

This testimony was just. Dr. Buckland had indeed put forth his zeal, his characteristic patience, and his never wearied exertions, in exploring the drift, or, as it was usually called, *diluvium*, of the British Isles: and after careful inductions from his own observations, he proceeded with the following passage, in reference to that mighty action of water to which such effects were attributed.

“An agent thus gigantic appears to have operated universally on the surface of our planet at the period of the deluge; the spaces then laid bare by the sweeping away of the solid materials that had before filled them, are called Valleys of Denudation; and the effects we see

* Discours, p. 141.