

or I might more correctly say in most, it is evident that the masses of drift have been formed by action long continued under water; that is, by currents, eddies, and tides, working for unknown ages, at the bottom and on the shores of the ocean: thus standing opposed to the idea of any short-lived inundation. Frequently, large tracts of country have been stripped bare of their drift and underlying strata, evidently by the action of an elevating movement from below, and a vast body of water on the surface: and sometimes considerable masses of the materials which had thus been swept away, occur heaped up in a corner, so to speak, or where an obstacle was presented to their further distribution. The idea of sea-beaches covered with shingle is graphically presented, and their successive elevation by slow rising of the land.\* The respective ages, in relation or comparison to each other, are determined, by the position of the distinguishable kinds of drift, that of one character lying under or over that of another; by relations to movements of underlying or neighbouring rocks; and by the geological constitution of the parent rocks whence the mass had been derived.

These summary remarks might suffice for the purpose of these lectures, which is not to deliver a system of Geology, but only to state clearly, if I can, those doctrines which to my conviction stand upon solid grounds of proof, but which may have the appearance of being contradicted by something said or implied in the Holy Scriptures. Yet,

\* See De la Beche's *Geological Manual*, pp. 172—178, third ed. 1833. Since that time, many examples have been brought before the Geological Society, by Prof. Sedgwick and others. Mr. Darwin, describing vast formations of this kind in South America, observes that the doctrine of slow elevations (a demonstrated fact) "will account, without the necessity of any sudden rush of water, for the general covering of mixed shingle, so common in many parts of Europe." *Voyage of the Beagle*, Vol. III. pp. 206: see also of that interesting volume, pp. 381, 411, 423.