

gradual termination, of the astonishing bodies of water which had thus been put into a violent and long-acting motion.

To my auditors, notwithstanding their candour and patience, I fear that these details have appeared dry and tedious; and to those who are not accustomed to such verbal descriptions, it may perhaps be difficult to estimate their argumentative value. But this object will be attained in a manner highly advantageous and illustrative, if I here cite the declarations of those eminent Geologists, who have frankly and honourably relinquished their former opinion.

I begin with Dr. Buckland, because I have already quoted, from his elegant and deeply interesting *Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*, the passage expressing what were his sentiments seventeen years ago. In his *Bridgewater Treatise*, he mentions, with a brevity which we cannot but lament, the “deposits of diluvial detritus, dispersed over the surface of formations of all ages.” These he classes with the newest or latest geological formations, called in Mr. Lyell’s nomenclature those of the Pliocene period, that is, *the newer* of the Tertiary series; though in fact it is older than the state of the surface which we can, with any reasonable appearance of evidence, regard as contemporary with the human race and the present vegetable and animal creation. Dr. Buckland also shows that the bones of large quadrupeds, which are abundantly found in these strata, have belonged to species which no longer exist in a living state, though we have other species of the same genera: thus warranting the belief that we live under a different order of creation than that of even the latest of the past periods: he then subjoins the following passage:

“The evidence which I have collected in my *Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*, 1823, shows, that one of the last great physical events that have