

comparatively recent assemblages of strata, which he designates the *Eocene*, *Meiocene* and *Pleiocene* Formations, (unknown but a few years ago, though diffused as extensively as many which were then honoured with the title of universal,) shows the extreme difficulty of distinguishing their detritus from what we have been accustomed to esteem Diluvium. The Fossil Contents of these formations strongly confirm this argument. M. Deshayes has shown that they belong to a series unbroken by any great intervals, and that, if they be divided from the secondary strata, the chasm can have no relation to any such event as is called *The Flood*.

“Further, the elephants and other animals once supposed to be exclusively *Diluvial*, are now admitted to be referrible to two or three distinct epochs; and it is highly probable that the blocks of the Jura Mountains, of the North of Germany, of the North of Italy, of Cumberland, Westmoreland, &c. are not the waifs and strays of one, but of several successive inundations.”

In addition to these vestiges of deluges, wide in their extent, and mighty in their effects, but yet limited and marked with characters of independent action and diversity of time, geological research has brought to light other facts and evidences, which we cannot enlarge upon. The phenomena are chiefly in the northern hemisphere. As far as my reading has enabled me to get information, and if the recollection do not fail, they are much less frequent and extensive in the equatorial regions. In Jamaica, Mr. De la Beche found considerable masses of drift-pebbles, conglomerates, and breccias, derived from the rocks of the island, and evidently of various ages.* But in the farther latitudes of South America, the plains of Patagonia, an area of two or three thousand square miles is covered with drift derived from the chain of the Andes by the washing of the ocean upon ancient coasts, which, in successive geological periods, have been raised above the waters, leaving a series of beaches which form terraces hundreds of miles asunder, and marked with the

* Transac. of Geol. Soc. Second Series; Vol. II. Article XIII. 1827. See also his Geol. Manual, p. 142.