

menced immediately upon the subsiding of the diluvial waters, it would be contrary to all known instances of volcanic action, to suppose that they would finally cease within a less period than many centuries. Now Julius Cæsar, in his Gallic wars, was encamped in this very district, at the closing part of the period just mentioned. His writings furnish abundant evidence of his observant, inquisitive, and acute character. Notwithstanding his vicious habits, he had a mind deeply imbued with literature, and the love of philosophical pursuits, and he made considerable attainments in science so far as in his day was practicable. Had he found in this place any tradition of volcanic action as having formerly existed, it is morally certain that his curiosity would have been powerfully awakened, and that we should have had in his Commentaries the result of his inquiries. But nothing of the kind exists, though he indicates his acquaintance with the features of the country, as having surveyed it with the eye of a general.\*

The geological difficulties are not the only ones which present themselves, in relation to the admission of a strictly universal deluge, and some of the circumstances which are *commonly supposed* to be affirmed or implied in the sacred narrative. It would be a failure in the service which I have undertaken, were I to pass these by without notice: but I must renew my entreaty that my auditors would not permit any conclusion unfavourable to the perfect verity of the Mosaic narrative, *correctly interpreted*, to lodge in their minds; for I trust that, in a future lecture, satisfactory proof will be brought that such conclusion would be erroneous.

The mass of water necessary to cover the whole globe to the depth supposed, would be in thickness about five

\* Comment. vii. 4, 9, 36.