

The great decisive miracle of Christianity, the RESURRECTION of the LORD JESUS,—sinks down before it.

The persons of whom we are speaking have probably never apprehended any difficulty with respect to the inhabitants of the waters; supposing that no provision was needed for their preservation. It may therefore be proper to notice some particulars. Such an additional quantity of water as their interpretation requires, would so dilute and alter the mass as to render it an unsuitable element for the existence of all the classes, and would kill or disperse their food; and all have their own appropriate food. Many of the marine fishes and shell animals could not live in fresh water: and the fresh water ones would be destroyed by being kept even a short time in salt water. Some species can indeed live in brackish water; having been formed by their Creator to have their dwelling in estuaries and the portions of rivers approaching the sea: but even these would be affected, fatally in all probability, by the increased volume of water and the scattering and floating away of their nutriment.

Thus, in a variety of ways, it is manifest that, upon the interpretation which I conceive to be erroneous, the preservation of animal life in the ark was immensely short of being adequate to what was necessary.

Further; if we admit that interpretation, and also accede to the usual opinion that the Ararat upon which the ark rested was the celebrated mountain of that name in Armenia, and which tradition points out as being such,—we are involved in another perplexity. That mountain is nearly the height of our European Mont Blanc, and perpetual snow covers about five thousand feet from its summit. If the water rose, at its liquid temperature, so as to overflow that summit, the snows and icy masses would be melted; and, on the retiring of the flood, the