

facts were brought forwards, tending to place the natural history of the earth in a position of variance with the generally received belief concerning the DELUGE, which is so important a part of the scriptural history of the human race. As I cannot expect that those facts can be distinctly recollected, it will be proper to recapitulate them in the briefest manner consistent with making them intelligible.

That enumeration brought before us the following statements: that, through the whole process of stratification, from the most ancient to the latest, the mineral character of each stratum proves the existence of contemporaneous dry land, as well as of depressed areas filled with water: that the indubitable relics of once animated creatures, in a great variety of species, from the earlier formations to the latest, penetrate through one or more of the next superincumbent strata, so that there never occur contiguous beds of mineral deposit which fail to be connected, (if I may use the phrase, dovetailed,) with each other; giving the result, that, from the unspeakably remote point of time in which vestiges of living nature first occur, there never was a period when life was extinct upon the surface of the globe; or, we might more properly say, when living creatures did not abundantly exist: that the vast masses of rolled pebbles and stones of all sizes, which have been spread over large districts, especially of this northern hemisphere, belong, not to any one transient flood, but to different eras of time, at great respective distances; some of the earliest never having been overflowed by a succeeding flood, and each for itself indicating the action of water through very long periods of time, in contradistinction to the idea of a deluge so brief as that of Noah, enduring but little more than three hundred days: that the cones of cinder and other volcanic products, over a considerable district in