

and irreligious persons have no reason left them, for doubting of the truth of the Holy Scriptures.*

The same pious and learned author repeats the sentiment in his English Annotations, published after his death. "Peradventure this flood might not be simply universal over the whole earth, but only over the habitable world, where either men or beasts lived; which was as much as either the meritorious cause of the flood, the sins of men; or the end of it, the destruction of all men and beasts; required."†

To the same effect, Le Clerc and the younger Rosenmüller might be quoted; but it cannot be necessary. Yet I may add that my hearers and readers will derive additional satisfaction from perusing the observations on this subject of Dr. Prichard, a man whose amiable and Christian character adds a bright ornament to his scientific and philological eminence. He states the difficulties, and methods for removing them. But though he declines giving a decided opinion, the inclination of his judgment appears to be in favour of the limited locality of the deluge.‡

But, I almost hear the exclamation from a thousand tongues, What are you doing? Whither are you driv-

* Non putandum est totum terræ globum aquis tectum^e fuisse. Quid opus erat illas mergere terras ubi homines non erant? Stultum est putare ante diluvium homines ita multiplicatos fuisse ut omnes terræ angulos pervaserint, cum ne Syriæ quidem et Mesopotamiæ fines forsitan excesserant. Absurdum autem est dicere, ubi nullæ hominum sedes, illic etiam viguisse effectus pœnæ solis hominibus inflictæ. Licet ergo credamus ne centesimam quidem orbis partem aquis fuisse obrutam, erit nihilominus diluvium universale, quia clades totum orbem habitatum oppressit. Sic si statuerimus, jam cessabunt ineptæ istæ et fuitiles quæstiones quas nonnulli de Diluvio moverunt, et simul improbis de Sacrarum Literarum veritate dubitandi omnis præripietur occasio." Synops. in Gen. vii. 19.

† On the same passage. Mr. Poole died in 1679.

‡ See his *Researches into the Physical History of Mankind*; Vol. I. pp. 98—102.