

we only know that, on the lowest possible assumption, we reach a period represented by their united ages only less extended by six years than that which the Samaritan chronology assumes as the period during which man has existed upon earth, and only three hundred and fifty-five years less than that assumed by the Masoretic chronology. The chronology of the Septuagint, which many have begun to deem the most adequate of the three, adds about five hundred and eight-six years to the sum of the latter.

Permit me, in closing this part of my subject, to show you that changes of level such as that to which we owe our old coast line in Scotland, and the marginal strip of dry land which we have laid out into so many pleasant gardens and fields, and on which we have built so many of our seaport towns, are by no means very rare events to the geologist. He enumerates at least five localities in the Old World,—Scandinavia, part of the west coast of Italy, the coasts of Cutch and of Arracan, and part of the kingdom of Luzan, in which the level is slowly changing at the present time; and in the New World there are vast districts in which the land suddenly changed its level for a higher one during the present century. ‘On the 19th of November 1822,’ says Sir Charles Lyell, ‘the coast of Chili was visited by a most disastrous earthquake. When the district around Valparaiso was examined on the morning after the shock, it was found that the whole line of coast for the distance of above one hundred miles was raised above its former level. At Valparaiso the elevation was three feet, and at Quinteno about four feet. Part of the bed of the sea remained bare and dry at high water, with beds of oyster, mussel, and other shells, adhering to the rocks on which they grew,—the fish being all dead, and exhaling offensive effluvia.’ Again, on the east side of the Bay of Bengal, upon the coast of Arracan, which is at present in the course of rising, there are islands which present on their