

When it became impossible to resist the evidence that these forms were relics of the sea, the theory obtained a foothold that, as the deluge of Noah had inundated the lands, these forms must be the relics of that recognized universal submergence. It required a century and a half to argue down this error; and, meantime, the geologists who did not subscribe to it, fell under the accusation of "disbelieving the whole of the Sacred writings."

Thus, in our day, we stand at the outcome of a contest of three hundred years; and, instead of battling against these old errors, we find ourselves in a position to push on to new discoveries.

That the sea has covered the land, and that shore lines have greatly changed, was taught by Pythagoras, and afterward by Strabo and Pliny; but these views were almost forgotten. Many Arabian writers have left on record views and opinions on many subjects, quite in advance of their European contemporaries. On this subject we find an entertaining revelation of opinion by Mohammed Kazwini, of the seventh century of the Hegira—the close of the thirteenth century of our era. It is given as the narrative of Kidhz, an allegorical personage:

"I passed one day by a very ancient, and wonderfully populous city, and asked one of its inhabitants how long it had been founded. 'It is indeed a mighty city,' replied he, 'we know not how long it has existed, and our ancestors were, on this subject, as ignorant as ourselves.' Five centuries afterwards, as I passed by the same place, I could not perceive the slightest vestige of the city. I demanded of a peasant who was gathering herbs upon its former site, how long it had been destroyed. 'In sooth a strange question,' replied he, 'the ground here has never been different from what you now behold it.' 'Was there not of old,' said I, 'a splendid city here?' 'Never,' he answered, 'so far as we have seen, and never did our fathers speak to us of any such.' On my return there five hundred years afterwards, I found the sea in the same place, and on its shores were a party of fishermen,