

water, which suddenly burst through the earth's crust, and rose above the highest mountains. The earth's crust was entirely disintegrated by this catastrophe, but living creatures, plants, and metals remained intact. As the Flood subsided the disintegrated material sank, and the stratigraphical succession formed with the heaviest rocks in the lower strata and the lighter deposits in the upper horizons.

Similarly the heavy metals, the minerals, concretions, marbles, and heaviest fossils were imbedded in the lowest strata; in the chalk strata were buried the lighter conchylia and echinoderms; while the upper series of sandy, clayey, and marly strata contained the bones of men, four-footed animals, fishes, the shells of terrestrial and fresh-water conchylia and plants.

The post-diluvial epoch had not been disturbed by any further catastrophe; rain had washed away the superficial material from the mountains, and the rivers and streams had carried the detritus into alluvial plains and sea-basins.

William Whiston,¹ another English writer, indulged in still more remarkable fancies about the early history of our globe. He supposed the earth had originally been a comet, which happened to approach the sun, and was melted into a coherent mass. As it travelled away from the sun, a re-arrangement of the earth's material began; the heavier particles formed a solid nucleus, the lighter particles gathered in the superficial parts; the surface was covered by water except where high mountain chains and islands rose above the ocean-level. The Paradise of the Bible was situated in the southern hemisphere, under the Tropic of Capricorn. In the beginning of creation the earth had no rotatory movement round its axis. That did not begin until after the Sin and Fall of Man in Paradise. After the Fall, in virtue of the rotatory movement, the internal heat of the earth radiated towards the surface and encouraged a rich increase of plant and animal life, but also caused a strong development of the human passions. The punishment came:

¹ William Whiston, born 1666, in 1695 became Chaplain to the Bishop of Norwich, and was in 1701 recommended by Sir Isaac Newton as his successor to the Chair of Mathematics in Cambridge. The heterodoxy of his writings caused Whiston to be deprived of his Professorship in 1701. The wide intelligence and imagination of his writing commanded, however, a large circle of admirers, and his *Theory of the Earth* ran through six editions in a very short time. He died in 1753.