

below sea-level up to the mountain tops as proof of the former submergence of the land and of the mode in which the rocks of the land have been formed. The author sagaciously calls attention to the fact that, instead of being indiscriminately huddled together in the strata, the fossils are found to lie on the planes of stratification, just as the shells and other organisms of the present sea are strewn over the surface of the sea-floor.

Telliamed, the Indian Philosopher, ridicules the notion that these universal marine formations could have been laid down by Noah's Flood, which he affirms was a local and transient inundation. He asserts that the valleys and other hollows of the earth's surface have been scooped out by marine currents during the sinking of the sea, leaving the mountainous ridges standing up between them. The diminution of the water is regarded by him as due to evaporation, whereby the vapour is carried through space to the extremity of the vortex wherein the dust and the particles of water are once more condensed upon other globes.

Methods are described for measuring the rate of the lowering of the sea-level, and as the result of observation it is estimated that the diminution amounts to as much as three or four inches in a century, or about three feet in a thousand years. A time will come when the Black and Mediterranean seas will be isolated into lakes, like the Caspian, and when the Atlantic will be laid dry, save perhaps some restricted remnant in its deeper part, while the rivers of the Old and New World will mingle their waters together.