

# THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

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## REVIEW SECTION.

### I.—NATURAL FACTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF THE DELUGE.

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ANY value that may attach to the subject of this paper will be in the inverse ratio of the validity of the divisive criticism of the Pentateuch so current at the present time. If the earlier parts of Genesis could not have been reduced to writing till the age of the Hebrew monarchy, and, if they existed at all before that time, were merely oral traditions or folk-lore, they can not, except on a theory of absolutely miraculous prophetic inspiration of the writers, have any definite historical significance. On such a view it would be unnecessary to compare them with the facts as to nature and early man, ascertained by modern investigation.

Workers in the sciences of man and nature are, however, beginning to perceive, as the article by Professor Sayce in the February number of this magazine well shows, that the hypotheses of the more destructive forms of the "higher criticism," however supported by verbal scholarship, will not account for the manner in which the primitive history in Genesis fits in with natural and historical facts which have come to light in very recent times; and which indicate that these old records must be contemporary or nearly so with the events they relate; always excepting that poem of creation in the first chapter, which can be accounted for only by direct revelation.

The history of the deluge of Noah is a notable example of this. Its form is that of a narrative by an eye-witness. It is confirmed in its essential features by the testimony of other ancient literature and traditions. The remains of antediluvian man and the contemporary animals discovered in very recent times, show monumental evidence of the catastrophe. Thus we have every reason to believe that the deluge was one of the most momentous occurrences in the history of