

of science on this subject. Very confident statements are often made as to the impossibility of such a submergence of the inhabited world, and destruction of human and animal life as the Bible represents. It would be well if those who speak thus confidently would study the accumulated evidence which distinguished scientific men have brought forward, that such a catastrophe as Genesis describes is not only possible, but has actually taken place since the advent of man. My attention was first drawn to this subject by an interesting lecture by the late Duke of Argyle given in Glasgow, and the same view has been advocated by other eminent geological specialists on glacial and post-glacial times, as Prestwich, Dawson, Howorth, Dr. Wright, etc. The universal terms employed need not be read as extending beyond the regions inhabited by man. There seems to be no substantial reason for doubting that in the Flood of Noah we have an actual historical occurrence of which traditions appear to have survived in most regions of the world.

Time fails to speak further on these great subjects, and I may close by simply quoting the eloquent words of Herder on those early chapters. With his language I associate myself: "This is a wonder," he says, "to which the worshippers of reason have not yet given a name—the story of the Fall of the first man. Is it allegory—history—fable? And yet there it stands following the account of the Creation, one of the pillars of Hercules beyond which there is nothing—the point from which all succeeding history starts . . . and yet, ye dear, most ancient and undying traditions of my race, ye are the very kernel and germ of its most hardened history. Without you mankind would be what