

tion of the various primitive earths, and many salts, metals and mineral substances, by the processes of vegetation, which are found on the decomposition of those vegetables by analysis and combustion: I was also aware, that vast tracts of the earth are formed by vegetable, animal and marine depositions, and being one day occupied in reading attentively the account of the creation in the first chapter of Genesis, the waters therein mentioned forced themselves strongly on my attention and repeated consideration, until at last the idea grew upon me, that the geological bodies of the earth were, somehow or other, *produced in these waters.*

That the earth was formed in a fluid, I now felt thoroughly convinced of; that a great part of its crust consisted of vegetable and animal depositions, even almost to the tops of the highest mountains, as stated by geologists, seemed to me a proof, that these marine vegetables and animals must have previously existed in waters which produced these depositary remains; and, as no inundation or deluge is sufficient to account for these universal appearances of the formations in the earth; therefore, the waters or oceans mentioned in the first of Genesis appeared to me the only and the truest sources by which we *can* account for them.

During my reading and reflections on this subject, and previously to my determining to form a Theory of the Creation, Archdeacon Paley's Evidences of Natural Religion fell into my hands, in which the atheistical doctrines of chance, and also, the notions of Buffon, of the earth's formation by a fragment knocked off by a comet from the sun, is related, and commented on, by the Archdeacon.

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