

of the waters correspondingly gradual, while the great destruction of animal life is shown in the numerous remains preserved in the different forms of the rubble drift wherever the conditions were favorable." *

With reference to the contention of some Continental geologists that the Palanthropic and Neanthropic ages pass into each other gradually without any break, Prof. Boyd Dawkins who, in relation to the fossil animals of the later Tertiary and early Modern periods, is one of the best living authorities, thus comments on the change in animal life: †

"The mere contrast between the Paleolithic and Neolithic faunas implies a zoological break of the first magnitude, which could only have been brought about by a series of changes going on through long periods of time.‡ And this contrast is presented not merely by the results of exploration in this country but over the whole of Europe, and still more is it emphasized by the arrival in this country and in Europe generally of the domestic animals introduced from the South and East under the care of the Neolithic herdsman and farmer."

Thus geological evidence establishes a physical and zoological change occurring in early human times, and corresponding with what has been termed the "traditional" deluge, but which, as we shall see, is more properly the deluge of very early written history. Questions and doubts may, however, naturally arise as to the equivalency above suggested of the geological cataclysm at the close of the Palanthropic Age with the historical deluge.

1. It may be objected that as in every region the tradition of a flood is connected with local features of such region, the testimony may after all relate to merely partial catastrophes arising from excessive river inundations, earthquake waves, or settlements of the ground. This difficulty will be best met by considering the freedom from local coloring in the biblical record of the deluge, and by allowing for the tendency of rude and isolated peoples to localize ancient events within the limited districts known to them, even tho these events may have been general. Archeologists therefore attach little importance to this objection, and the evidence of geology as to the wide extent of the post-glacial subsidence tends of course to relieve geologists from this difficulty. Prestwich is very decided on this point.

2. But to many the extensive subsidence postulated by geologists seems an extreme supposition. One of the most certain, however, of the conclusions of geology is that all our Continental plateaus have been again and again submerged in the course of geological time. It is indeed these successive subsidences with intervening elevations that give us the greater part of our geological chronology, as based on the succession of faunas and floras. To these subsidences also is due the fact that the greater part of the formations now constituting the conti-

* Transactions Victoria Institute, March, 1895.

† Journal Anthropological Institute, Feb., 1894.

‡ That is, on the principle of "uniformitarianism," which Prestwich does not hold to the same extent.