

"*History of China before the Flood.* The traditions preserved by many ancient nations of the earliest history of the earth and mankind, *before* and after the great geological floods, which have desolated the globe, are highly interesting ; they belong at once to geology, archeology, history, and many other sciences. They are the only glimpses to guide us where the fossil remains or medals of nature, are silent or unknown.

Ancient China was in the eastern slopes and branches of the mountains of Central Asia, the hoary *Imalaya*, where it is as yet very *doubtful* whether the flood thoroughly extended."

But though this is doubted, we cannot subscribe to the opinion, however great our deference may be for the ability and research of those who have ventured to doubt. We feel by far a greater deference to the statement of the author of the Hebrew Genesis ; a historian of the highest *accredited* antiquity. This author says plainly, that "*all* the high hills under the *whole* heaven were covered ;" and that "*fifteen cubits,*" und upwards, did the waters prevail ; and the mountains were covered. But not so, if we are to believe these doubters. A very large tract of country of Central Asia was exempt from the flood of Noah.

This opinion, which contradicts the Bible account of that flood, is founded on "the traditional history of China, which speaks of two great floods which desolated, but did not overflow the land. They answer, says Mr. Rafinesque, to the two great floods of Noah and Peleg, recorded in the Bible. "The latter, the flood of Peleg, or Yao, in China, was caused, he says, by volcanic paroxysms all over the earth ;" but "much less fatal than the flood of Noah, or Yu-ti, in China."

Respecting this flood, "the following details are taken chiefly from the Chinese historians, Liu-yu and Lo-pi, whose works are called Y-tse, and Uai-ki, as partly translated by Leroux." These say, that "the first flood happened under the 8th Ki, or period called Yu-ti, and the first emperor of it," was "Chin-sang, about 3,170 years before Christ."

But neither can this be, as the flood of Noah took place 1,656 years from the creation, which would, therefore, be but 2,344 years *before* Christ ; being a mistake of about 826 years. And, therefore, if there is any truth in the Chinese history at all, those historians must have alluded to some flood *before* that of Noah ; an ac-