

operations of a convulsed globe in some locality, while Noah and his family may have been the remnants saved in another. Or each may have been survivors of widely separated occurrences to which we have referred.

A portion of the inhabitants may have been saved by boats, corroborating the traditional account of the aborigines of America, as well as the mythical and sacred books of different nations.

This view of the subject best explains the difference of species of animals, living representatives of which have been long extinct, their bones however, frequently found deep in the earth. By some of the swells of the ocean, during these paroxysms, a whole continent would be swept over, and thus the Bible expression, "all the fountains of the great deep were broken up," is as correct as expressive.

The American continent, with its pre-historic mounds, the products of an ancient and long extinct race, may have been swept away by some of these gigantic ocean waves, when the waters were seeking their level, though the continent itself was not permanently submerged. A few inhabitants may have escaped, who chanced to be on mountain tops. They were the progenitors of the red man, found here by our European ancestors. As the water receded to its former bed, with the return wave, and rested but a short period on the surface, the general face of the country, save as regards vegetable and animal life, was but little disturbed. If this tidal wave swept from the south-east to the north west, we can account for the treeless prairies, all verdure being destroyed, followed on the subsidence of the flood by grasses which were the readiest to take root, the seeds of the forest being less tenacious of life were destroyed with the parent tree.

It is not probable all the continents and islands were submerged, nor all upheaved at the same epoch. Were such a catastrophe to again visit our earth, which is not at all improbable, because of the molten mass still reposing in its bosom, the western coasts of the Ameri-

\* NOTE:—Classical writers inform us that Deucalion reigned over a part of Thessaly. In his age, say they, some 1,500 years before our era, the whole earth was overwhelmed with a deluge. The impiety of mankind had irritated Jupiter, who resolved to destroy the race. Immediately the whole earth exhibited a boundless sea. The highest mountains were climbed by the frightened inhabitants, to escape the rising waters. This seeming security was soon overtopped by the swelling flood, and no hope was left of escaping the universal calamity. Prometheus advised his son, Deucalion, to make himself a ship, which he did, and by this means escaped with his wife the general disaster. The pigeon and olive branch play their part in this as in all other narrations of the kind, showing a universal paternity somewhere.

can continent might be depressed below the sea level. The Pacific would soon establish an equilibrium. The large amount of water required would denude other portions, Possibly Australia, with the thousand islands of the eastern archipelago, would rise into the dignity of a continent with hills and vales, and inland seas. Dense forests of verdure, abounding with animal life would soon complete the beautiful picture, and give us the realization of a new continent, rising from the sea, like Venus in classic story.

Cosmogonists have been too much in the habit of predicating their ideas of creation on the accounts found in their "sacred books." Instead of entering the great field of inquiry, reading the rock-records "engraved by the finger of God," and making proper deductions therefrom, thinking and writing for themselves, and building up a science conformable to the teachings of Nature—which cannot misrepresent,—they have been content to borrow the narrow theory of some person who lived in the deep past, whose ideas were drawn from an uncultured fountain, and who had not sufficient data on which to establish any great scientific truth.

The human mind was no more content to remain inactive four thousand years ago than now. The people then found the earth substantially as we see it to-day, and peopled as it is with inhabitants. Reason taught them that all this had a beginning. The easiest way to explain to the ignorant masses, orally taught by the better-cultured priests, and quite as satisfactory to an uncultured population, was the story originally copied from the Babylonian records, transcripts of which were found by Layard in the ruins of Ninevah, where they had been concealed for more than 3,000 years by the sands of the desert. Our writers, conscious of the deep-rooted attachment of the populace to their sacred books, have labored to educate the common mind, by harmonizing their knowledge with prejudiced public opinion on this subject. This should not be. The time has come when the Truth should be taught, and if Error suffers it is not the fault of the truthful teacher, but of him who taught the original error.

Our world is older than even scientific thinkers have generally supposed. These thinkers found the earth as it is, and were ready to take for granted that its population, with man and the lower forms of life, began with the present order of things.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)