

Our concern, however, in this discussion, is with the general deluge, described in the book of Genesis, for, we are writing for the sake of those who believe in the genuineness and authenticity of that history. From many things that have been already said, it is obvious that the amazing geological depositions of the earth cannot be ascribed to that short, violent and transient catastrophe. Its genuine effects are exactly those which all geologists ascribe to diluvial action; namely, the transportation of the loose ruins of mineral masses, and of the organic world, which are found strewed every where over the surface of the earth.

Professor Buckland, in his *Reliquiae Diluvianæ*, has most ably illustrated this subject; and it is obvious, that the former practice, of attributing the organized remains found in the solid strata, to this catastrophe, is founded entirely in an imperfect acquaintance with the subject, and that no man, at the present period, who had studied geology thoroughly, would fall into such an error.

It is not supposable, however, that all deposits of gravel, &c. are attributable to a general deluge, and it may be difficult to draw the line between a local and a general flood. It is not important to discuss that topic, nor the objections of those who reject the Mosaic account of a general deluge. To them it is sufficient to say, that as the earth bears every where marks of diluvial action, and is strewed with diluvial ruins, every observer will for himself assign to local deluges, or to a general debacle, as great a portion of the effects as may in his view be proper.

To those who would assign to the agency of a general deluge, the vast work of depositing the immense solid geological formations, with all their varied stores of animals, and plants, and fragments, and diversified successions, we can say only, that such effects, from such a cause, are physically impossible, especially within the limits of time and under the circumstances assigned in the Mosaic account. It is not necessary to go again into the induction of particulars.

As to the loose materials, their actual disposition and arrangement, as we now see them, is to be attributed, chiefly, to a diluvial ocean—no other cause being capable of reaching the regions remote from, and elevated above the present great waters of the globe.

The arrangement of the loose materials, on shores and in outlets, and in regions occasionally flooded, is, at least to some depth, and to some extent, to be referred to agencies now in operation.

It is also true, that water-worn pebbles are produced at the present time. No one who, on the sea shore, has observed the incessant lash-