dawn.—Leibnitz proceeds even distinctly to indicate the line of future research into the geographical distribution and extension of the various formations, which might be expected to place this new science on a firm basis."*

Notwithstanding these few exceptions, the common resort of those who took any notice of the bones, shells, and other remains, presenting themselves so profusely in the bowels of the earth, has been to the Deluge of Noah. In what situations soever the remains of animal and vegetable beings were found, it was at once assumed that they were antediluvian relics, brought thither by the flood. It seems never to have entered into men's minds, to consider the condition of these organic remains, their place in natural history, their relations to each other and to the particular strata in which they occur, and the presence or absence of marks of transport. Scarcely an appearance of entombed organization could be presented, but it was at once set down to the account of the deluge. The contents of all caves containing bones, were supposed to have been floated or driven into them by those mighty waters. The scooping out of valleys, whether with the most abrupt sides and tortuous courses, or in smooth and gentle undulations of outline, found forthwith a ready explanation; without any exercise of mind upon the inquiry whether such a diversity of effects does not imply a proportionate diversity of causes in nature, intensity and duration. All or nearly all, the superficial drift, consisting of sand, gravel, and rolled pebbles of all sizes, up to the bowlders of some thousand cubic feet, were, implicitly and without further examination of cases and circumstances, ascribed to one and the same cause, the diluvial waters. In short, persons have not been wanting, even down to the present day, who have maintained that

* The Rev. W. D. Conybeare's Report on Geology, in the Reports of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; vol. I. p. 368.