

ing merely to reason respecting it, after the lapse of more than four thousand years, he had been enabled to bear testimony regarding it from the evidence of his senses. In the first place, let me remark that the sinking or downward motion of the earth's crust would be altogether inappreciable by sense ; in the next, that the depression, even when it had reached its acme, would in no sensible degree affect the contour of surrounding objects. Even at the end of the forty days, when the five thousand feet of depression had been reached, the gradient of declination across the sunken area would not exceed *ten* feet per mile, and across the larger diameter would amount to but *six feet eight inches* per mile. Of course, at the end of the twentieth day the gradients would be represented by but one-half these sums, and would be altogether inappreciable in the landscape ; the hills would seem quite as high as before, and the valleys not more profound. The only sensible sign felt or visible of what was taking place would be simply a persistent rising of the sea at somewhat less than twice its rate of flow during stream tides. Ocean, as if forgetful of its ancient bounds, would continue to encroach upon the land. On the second day the greater part of what is now the site of Edinburgh would be covered ; on the seventh day the tide would have reached the vesse' perched on the top of the hill now known as Arthur's Seat ; on the sixteenth day the highest peak of the Pentlands would have disappeared ; and in nine days more, the distant summit of Ben Lomond. From the roof of the slowly-drifting ark nothing would then have appeared save a shoreless ocean. But it would have taken yet other eleven days ere the proud crest of Ben Nevis, the highest land in the British islands, would have been submerged ; and the eve of the fortieth day would have seen it covered by little more than five hundred feet of water. An actual witness, in such circumstances, however intelligent, could have but testified to the persistent