

of the hippopotamus ; and the ornithic inhabitants of New Zealand had their predecessors in monstrous birds, such as the *dinornis*, the *aptornis*, and the *palapteryx*,—wingless creatures like the ostrich, that stood from six to twelve feet in height. In these several regions two *generations* of species of the genera peculiar to them have existed,—the recent generation, by whose descendants they are still inhabited, and the extinct gigantic generation, whose remains we find locked up in their soils and caves. But how are such facts reconcileable with the hypothesis of a universal deluge ?

The Deluge was an event of the existing creation. Had it been universal, it would either have broken up all the diverse centres, and substituted one great general centre instead,—that in which the ark rested ; or else, at an enormous expense of miracle, all the animals preserved by *natural* means by Noah would have had to be returned by *supernatural* means to the regions whence by means *equally supernatural* they had been brought. The sloths and armadilloes,—little fitted by nature for long journeys,—would have required to be ferried across the Atlantic to the regions in which the remains of the megatherium and glyptodon lie entombed ; the kangaroo and wombat, to the insulated continent that contains the bones of the extinct macropus and phascalomys ; and the New Zealand birds, including its heavy flying quails and its wingless wood-hen, to those remote islands of the Pacific in which the skeletons of *Palapteryx ingens* and *Dinornis giganteus* lie entombed. Nor will it avail aught to urge, with certain assertors of a universal deluge, that during the cataclysm, sea and land changed their places, and that what is now land had formed the bottom of the antediluvian ocean, and, *vice versa*, what is now sea had been the land on which the first human inhabitants of the earth increased and multiplied. No geologist who knows how very various the ages of the several table-lands and mountain-chains in reality