

which he founded for the identification of fossil bones, and upon his successful demonstration that the primeval mammals were not mere varieties of living forms, but belonged to extinct species and genera.

As Buffon had done twenty years earlier, Cuvier likewise, by his commanding personality, attracted many to the study of geology and palæontology, and instilled enthusiasm into a large circle of his more intimate friends and scientific disciples. Others had shown how important fossils were for an understanding of the stratigraphical succession. But never before Cuvier had the significance of fossils been so energetically brought forward as a means of arriving at a true appreciation of animal skeletal structures, and of building up a history of the whole animal creation. Thus Cuvier largely contributed to the rapid progress that was made during the next quarter of the century in the detailed investigations of fossil organisms and their stratigraphical position.

It is not surprising that Cuvier's Catastrophal Theory, which afforded a certain scientific basis for the Mosaic account of the "Flood," was received with special cordiality in England, for there, more than in any other country, theological doctrines had always affected geological conceptions. Many of the best known English geologists—Greenough, Babbage, Sedgwick, and others—considered the "Flood" the latest of Cuvier's "World-Catastrophes."

The most argumentative and influential member of this party was Professor Buckland. He published in 1823 a work entitled *Reliquiæ diluvianæ; or, Observations on the Organic Remains contained in Caves, Fissures, and Diluvial Gravel, and on other Phenomena attesting the action of a Universal Deluge*. In this work Buckland showed that the majority of the Mammalian remains found in the caves and fissures belonged to the same genera and species as those which were found in the superficial gravels and clays. The latter he sub-divided into a lower or "diluvial" series and an upper or "alluvial" series comprising recent river and lake deposits. He emphasised the wide distribution of the diluvial deposits, and the fact that some of the animals interred in them belong to extinct species, others to existing species, and concluded that these deposits had been laid down by a universal deluge at no more remote date than a few thousand years ago.