

**CYCLICAL DELUGES; AN
EXPLICATION OF THE CHIEF
GEOLOGICAL PHENOMENA OF THE
GLOBE, BY PROOFS OF PERIODICAL
CHANGES OF THE EARTH'S AXIS**

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Cyclical Deluges; an Explication of the Chief Geological Phenomena of the Globe, by Proofs of Periodical Changes of the Earth's Axis by William Bassett Walker

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WILLIAM BASSETT WALKER

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CYCLICAL DELUGES:

AN EXPLICATION

OF THE CHIEF

Geological Phenomena of the Globe,

BY PROOFS OF

PERIODICAL CHANGES OF THE EARTH'S AXIS.

EMBRACING

A THEORY, FOUNDED ON GEOGRAPHICAL FACTS,

OF THE

TRUE GEOLOGICAL FORMATION OF CARBONIFEROUS
MINERAL.

With an Engraving.

BY

WILLIAM BASSETT WALKER, M.R.S.V.



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PREFACE.

THE want of a book which should impart advanced information regarding the chief geological phenomena of the globe, derived from the latest discoveries, whether physical facts or mathematical inductions, has been the incentive on the part of the Author to produce this work, which he hopes will not only merit public favour, and lead to a general adoption of the opinions set forth, but that it will also open up fresh fields of inquiry, and elicit new modes of thought, which shall reconcile some of the geological puzzles which constitute our present accepted systems of Geology, with those phenomena that reason may assure us are indubitable facts.

The Author is conscious that he will meet with dissentient remarks from leading geologists; but he trusts that even they may be induced to pause

in holding fast to their theory that carboniferous formations are the result of vegetable matter grown *in situ*. As far as the Author is aware, he claims to be the first writer who has pointed out the remarkable *geographical* position occupied by the coal-fields of the world as bearing testimony to the theory of deluge epochs, as demonstrated by M. Alphonse Adhemar.*

Geologists admit the advent of Man on the earth from far distant ages, yet we universally find him a savage, except in Central Asia, where the "Rig-Veda," said, by learned Sanscrit scholars, to be the oldest record of man,† exhibits the Hindoos as possessing an elevated philosophy, a yearning aspiration to adopt a Godhead worthy of their holy adoration, and who then possessed a civilization which casts into the shade that now ruling, after a lapse of fifty centuries. If we also take into consideration the arts and sciences which must have accompanied the high civilization of that ancient people, may we not reasonably inquire why its waves of divergence had not spread in wider circles than we know

* "Révolutions de la Mer." † 3,000 B.C.

them to have done, had there not been some great benumbing catastrophe which overtook man, and which only permitted a remnant to escape in the quarter of the globe indicated? It is also remarkably significant, and especially so in the book referred to, that, going back to a period of forty centuries, there ever hangs an impenetrable curtain of darkness, behind which we cannot further explore the early history of Man; although directly on this side of that gulf of silence, we find him surrounded with a high civilization, accompanied with a holy, lofty, and sublime worship of one Supreme Being. How then, we may fairly ask, are we to read this archaeological enigma, except by the adoption of the theory of cyclical deluges which have left so many acknowledged landmarks of their diluvial agency?

In the following pages the Author believes that a key will be found to unlock many of the mysteries which at present beset the study of terrestrial phenomena; and that, amongst others, when the high civilization attained, in non-carboniferous portions of the globe, such as Central Asia, which

bespeaks a high antiquity, is considered in relation to the fact that at the sites of the coal-fields of the world *Man appears to have last emerged from barbarism*. The repellent Malthusian theory will no longer be received as an axiom, that "Providence has ordained periodical wars, and pestilence and famine, as the Divine instruments of checking the otherwise inevitable superabundant population of the earth." Who shall presume to set bounds to Infinity?