

hyenas, hippopotami, rhinoceros, &c. are found now abundantly in the diluvium of England, and consequently England was dry land before the deluge that buried these remains, and therefore the existing continents have not been raised from the ocean since the creation of terrestrial quadrupeds, unless they were submersed after that epoch and then raised again, of which there is no proof. The coal beds also present indubitable proofs of having been formed from terrestrial vegetables, and therefore they were not submarine, although the occasional occurrence of a few marine shells or plants may prove that some of them were formed in islands or estuaries, where the sea had occasional access.

The result of all our enquiries, then, is this.

We find that the geological formations are in accordance with the Mosaic account of the creation; but more time is required for the necessary events of the creation than is consistent with the common understanding of the days. The history is therefore true, but it must be understood so as to be consistent with itself and with the facts.

It is agreed on all hands, that there may be time enough for the primitive rocks before the first day, and if the days be regarded as periods of time, so as to allow room for the events assigned to them, relating to organic beings, and to the masses in which they are entombed, all difficulty is removed.

On the contrary, if they are restricted to the usual popular sense, it is not physically possible that the events should have happened within the time assigned; but they did happen, and as there was no call for miracles in cases where natural operations alone were sufficient, there can be no doubt that sufficient time was allowed.

It is scarcely necessary to remark, that after the order and arrangement of the creation were fully established, and man appeared on the earth, the measures of time were, without doubt, the same as now, and therefore we are not at liberty, as there is clearly no occasion, to regard them in any other than the usually accepted sense.

It is no valid objection to the supposition of more time than is commonly allotted to the week of the creation, that there were no human beings to be spectators of the work. Even upon the popular view, they were excluded, because the human race did not appear until the very last act of the creation. Had they, however, been co-existent, they would scarcely have understood what was passing, as most of the geological facts were veiled by the ocean. But there were not wanting spectators; God, and angelic beings, far superior in intelligence