

and dignity to man, looked on, and in the beautiful and highly figurative language of the history—"the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy."

Before closing these remarks, we will respectfully submit a few suggestions for the consideration of two very different descriptions of persons, namely, *those who deny, and those who defend, the truth of the Mosaic history.*

To the former class, so far as they are geologists, we will say, that, in relation to geology, any attempt to disprove the truth or genuineness of the pentateuch, and of Genesis in particular, is wholly superfluous, and quite aside from any question that can, in this age, be at issue between geologists. No geologist, at the present day, erects any system upon the basis of the scripture history, or of any other history. Still, historical coincidences with natural phenomena have always been regarded as interesting, because they are mutually adjuvant and confirmatory. The letter of Pliny, describing the death of his uncle, would have been true, although Herculaneum and Pompeii had never been discovered; and it would have been true that those towns were overwhelmed by a volcanic eruption, although the letter of Pliny had never been written; or being written, if it had been false as to the main fact of the death of the elder Pliny, or of there having been an eruption at the time assigned in that writing. But the existence of the letter, and its coincidence with the facts revealed by the discovery of the buried cities, flash conviction upon every mind, and afford some of those firm points of reliance upon which our confidence reposes with delight. Now if there is not sufficient proof in the appearance of the earth, that it was for a long time covered by water, and that the waters deposited, in the then forming strata and mountains, those organic bodies, of aquatic origin, which we find entombed in them, then no geologist of the present day would, on the authority of the first chapter of Genesis alone, assume the fact of terrene submersion, as the basis of his reasoning and as the foundation of a geological system.

In the same manner, if he find on the face of the earth no proofs of diluvial devastation; if there be nothing to evince, that mighty rushing waters have torn up and transported to a distance the moveable materials of the surface; then, as a geologist, he will never assume the Mosaic account of the deluge as the basis of a system of diluvial agency, any more than he will build similar conclusions upon the poetry, fables and mythology, or even upon the history, of the ancients.