

4. HARMONY BETWEEN REVELATION AND GEOLOGY.—There was a time when every geologist was required to defend himself against imputations of this kind, and I deeply regret to find that there still exists in the minds of many well-meaning persons a prejudice against the study of Geology, from a mistaken apprehension, lest it should weaken our belief in the revealed word of God; for they assume that a discrepancy must exist between the results of geological inquiries and the Mosaic account of the creation of the world. But, convinced as I am of the utter impossibility that there ever can be any collision between the purest piety and sound philosophy, and that these prejudices have been created and perpetuated by authors, who, falsely styling themselves geologists, have mixed up their own vague and erroneous notions with the history of the earth as given by the inspired writer, attempting, with the presumption of ignorance, to account for that which lies beyond the reach of human investigation, and to explain it by evidence equally misapprehended and misapplied,—I would most unequivocally assert that a just view of the nature and limits of geological science warrants no such reproach. Abandoning all attempts to explain the inexplicable, or to reconcile the irreconcilable, it confines itself to its legitimate purpose of accumulating and investigating facts, of pointing out analogies, and indicating the inferences to which they lead; “this is far different from that pre-