

and I do not feel much surprise that many intelligent persons hesitate to admit its correctness; but you have seen that it is deduced from such an immense accumulation of facts, as to compel assent, in spite of all our preconceived opinions. We may, indeed, call up from the depths of our ignorance hypotheses as marvellous as the phenomena they are intended to explain, but which a very slight examination of the facts described would prove to be utterly untenable.

38. CONCLUDING REMARKS.—There is another objection to which I would allude, for I do not think with some, that the errors, or prejudices, of those who differ from us should be treated with silence or contempt; but, rather, that it is our duty to explain, again and again, the foundation of our belief, in the hope and assurance that we shall at length remove the erroneous opinions of those whose scepticism arises from their imperfect acquaintance with the subject. It has been insisted upon by those whose views are limited to the present state of the globe, that the supposition of the earth having been peopled by other creatures before the existence of man, is incompatible with the evident design of the Creator, and derogatory from the dignity of the human race, to whose pleasures and necessities all things were rendered subservient, and for whom alone they were created. But this assumption is utterly at variance with what we know of the living world around us; every where