

deemed Utopian, if it were necessary that all should understand the patient and laborious trains of research and reasoning by which we have arrived at grand generalizations in geology, and other branches of physical science. But this is not requisite for the desired end. We have simply to communicate the results, and this we are bound to do, without waiting till they have been established for half a century. We ought rather carefully to prepare the public mind for new conclusions as soon as they become highly probable, and thus make impossible that collision of opinion, so much to be deprecated, between the multitude and the learned.

It is as easy to teach a peasant or a child that the earth moves round the sun, as to inculcate the old exploded dogma that it is the motionless center of the universe. The child is as willing to believe that our planet is of indefinite antiquity, as that it is only 6000 years old. Tell him that the earth was inhabited by other races of animals and plants before the creation of man, as we now know it to have been, and the idea is not more difficult for him to conceive than the notion which is usually allowed to take root in his mind, that man and the species of animals and plants, now our contemporaries, were the first occupants of this globe. All that we require, when once a good system of primary and normal schools has been organized, is a moderate share of moral courage and love of truth, on the part of the laity and clergy; and then the academical chair and scientific lecture-room, and every pulpit, and every village school, may be made to speak the same language, in regard to those natural phenomena, which are of a kind to strike and interest the popular mind.*

* The substance of the above remarks, on the fossil foot-prints of Greensburg, was given by me in a Lecture to the Royal Institution, London, Feb. 4, 1848