

earth and to the other planets and astral spheres an antiquity which millions or ten thousand millions of years might fail to represent, *the divine records forbid not their deduction.*"—*Script. and Geol.* p. 502.

Says Dr. Bedford, "We ought to understand Moses as saying, *indefinitely far back, and concealed from us in the mystery of eternal ages, prior to the first moment of mundane time,* God created the heavens and the earth."—Smith, *Script. and Geol.* 4th edit.

"My firm persuasion is," says Dr. Harris, that the first verse of Genesis was designed, by the divine Spirit, to announce the absolute origination of the material universe by the Almighty Creator; and that it is so understood in the other parts of holy writ; that passing by an indefinite interval, the second verse describes the state of our planet immediately prior to the Adamic creation, and that the third verse begins the account of the six days' work."

"If I am reminded, in a tone of animadversion, that I am making science, in this instance, the interpreter of Scripture, my reply is, that I am simply making the works of God illustrate his word in a department in which they speak with a distinct and authoritative voice; that "it is all the same whether our geological or theological investigations have been prior, if we have not forced the one into accordance with the other." (Davidson, *Sacred Hermeneutics.*) "And that it might be deserving consideration, whether or not the conduct of those is not open to just animadversion, who first undertake to pronounce on the meaning of a passage of Scripture, irrespective of all the appropriate evidence, and who then, when that evidence is explored and produced, insist on their *a priori* interpretation as the only true one." *Pre-Adamite Earth*, p. 280.

"Our best expositors of Scripture," says Dr. David King, of Glasgow, "seem to be now pretty generally agreed, that the opening verse in Genesis has no necessary connection with the verses which follow. They think it may be understood as making a separate and independent statement regarding the creation proper, and that the phrase 'in the beginning' may be expressive of an indefinitely remote antiquity. On this principle the Bible recognizes, in the first instance, the great age of the earth, and then tells us of the changes it underwent at a period long subsequent, in order to render it a fit abode