

but not an example of which has fallen within the period of human observation or annals. But though plenty of time may wear out an old race, it does nothing to account for the production of new races. To this day geologists are divided among themselves on the question whether the strata of the earth prove, or do not prove, a progress towards higher and higher perfection in organic structure. 'The popular theory of the successive development of the animal and vegetable world, from the simplest to the most perfect forms, rests on a very insecure foundation.'*

Those difficulties which lie within geology may be cleared away by future discoveries. But we have like reason to hope, that the partial obscurity now resting on the relations of geology to the Bible will be dissipated by the progress of science, or by juster exposition of Scripture itself.

There is this of some moment to be considered, that the difficulty respects the oldest class of facts mentioned in Scripture, and those which are farthest removed from all aids to exposition. In the case of other religions, the most ancient pretensions are the most plausible, from being

* Lyell's Princip. of Geol., book i., chap. 9.