

now pretty generally agreed that the opening verse in Genesis has no necessary connexion with the verses which follow. They think it may be understood as making a separate and independent statement regarding creation proper, and that the phrase, 'in the beginning,' may be expressive of an indefinitely remote antiquity. On this principle of interpretation, the Bible recognises, 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 for the family of man. The work of the six days was, according to this view, not a creation in the strict sense of the term, but a renovation—a remodelling of pre-existent materials. Some difficulty, however, remains in explaining the transactions of these days, so as to establish their accordancy with geological discoveries.

OPINIONS REGARDING THE SIX DAYS.

In former times, Whiston, Des Cartes, De Luc, and other distinguished men, advocated the opinion that the days spoken of in Genesis were