

earth was not only modified, but dissipated, so that the heavenly bodies came into view with all that conspicuousness which renders them so valuable to man, and constitutes them especially the signs of seasons. Thus his mandate was fulfilled: 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven,' etc. In like manner, Dr. Buckland explains all the transactions of the days mentioned in Genesis as being improvements which followed temporary disorder; and he understands the inspired penman to describe changes which our own globe, and the celestial bodies, underwent, not in their own general condition, or in their connexion with the universe at large, but in their relation to man and his specific well-being.*

Dr. Pye Smith has started the opinion that the recital which follows the announcement of creation may have respect to a sub-division of the globe. He thinks that the term 'earth' may have a local and restricted sense, and may be designed to express that particular part of our world which God was adapting for the dwelling of man, and the animals connected with him.

* See Bridgewater Treatise, vol. i., chap. 2.