

reached the time when any one of them, or any other of like nature, should be very positively maintained. As regards the bearing of physical facts on the elucidation of Scripture, we are, if I mistake not, doing little more as yet than examining witnesses ; and we must exercise a little patience before we find ourselves in a condition to sum up the evidence or to pronounce judgment. Geology is but feeling its way to the formation of a complete and coherent system. If in its present state it exhibited an apparent accordance with our interpretation of Scripture, new difficulties might arise from subsequent geological discoveries. It is enough for the present that apparent contradictions are becoming less prominent, while possible means of reconciliation are enlarging on the view. We are thus emboldened to say, with Dr. Buckland, ' I trust it may be shown, not only that there is no inconsistency between our interpretation of the phenomena of nature and of the Mosaic narrative, but that the results of geological inquiry throw important light on parts of this history, which are otherwise involved in much obscurity.'