

by us to be inspired, had assured us that the deluge was caused by the approach or stroke of a comet? It is now ascertained that a comet has no solidity, and that even its densest portion consists of attenuated vapour. A hundred other explanations, equally untenable, have been offered, which, if they had been a part of the Bible itself, as they were designed to be a vindication of it, would have brought into utter discredit its claims to authenticity. So true is it that the folly of God is better than the wisdom of man; and that while systems of philosophy change continually their phases, the word of the Lord endureth for ever.

Allow me to add, that if geology has its proper evidence, so has Scripture—evidence clear, and broad, and varied, which no difficulties affect—and that the same searching after truth which has led men of scientific mind to acquiesce in modern geology, has induced many of the more eminent of their number to own the *proof of Scripture to be decisive and irresistible*. The great Cuvier, the father of philosophic geology, was president of the Bible Society in Paris, and was meditating a speech for one of