

PREFACE.

THE writings of geologists are now in general circulation. They are read with much interest, and, at the same time, with not a little perplexity by the most enlightened section of Christian society. In my intercourse with young men of good education, I have found more of them disquieted in their minds, if not unsettled in their religious principles, by the results of geological investigation, than by any other difficulties attending revealed truth. In these circumstances, I have been compelled to give some attention to the subject, that I might 'be ready always to give an answer to every one that asked me a reason of the hope that is in me, with meekness and fear.'

If I mistake not, the time has come when we