

such as the great age of the earth, having the most intimate connexion with scriptural interpretation.

Nor, finally, will it suffice for a removal of difficulties to allege merely that the Bible was not designed to teach Geology. That is true : and the truth is one which, in all discussions upon the subject, we should ever keep in mind. It rebukes the construction of a formal system out of a few notices designed for other and nobler applications, and also forbids a rigid explanation of popular terms on philosophical principles. Still, the Bible does give us accounts both of the Creation and the Deluge ; and if we attach to its narration any distinct meaning at all, we are called on to inquire how far that meaning is reconcileable with the conclusions of elaborate observation.

The spirit which starts these objections to the labours and doctrines of geologists is one, it may be, of jealous concern for the truth and safety of the word of God. But anxiety may be sincere and friendly where it is not wise. Uzzah feared for the ark of God when shaken by the oxen, although it was perfectly secure ; and he