

of the nineteenth century has been unable to detect a single discrepancy between the two records. The same cannot be said of any false religion. The Shasters of Hindostan contain a false astronomy, as well as a false anatomy and physiology, and the Koran distinctly avows the Ptolemaic system of the heavenly bodies ; and so interwoven are these scientific errors with the religion of these sacred books, that when you have proved the former you have disproved the latter. But the Bible, stating only facts, and adopting no system of human philosophy, has ever stood, and ever shall stand, in sublime simplicity and undecaying strength ; while the winds and the waves of conflicting human opinions roar and dash harmlessly around, and the wrecks of a thousand false systems of philosophy and religion are strewed along its base.

But the religious applications of chemistry do not consist simply in illustrating a passage of Scripture. It abounds with the most beautiful exhibitions of the divine wisdom and benevolence ; and notwithstanding the ingenious developments by Prout, in his Bridgewater Treatise, and by Fownes in his Prize Essay, I must believe that this field is only just entered, and that most precious gems will be found in almost every part of its wide extent. What admirable skill and benevolence does the doctrine of definite proportions and atomic constitution in chemical compounds present ! Here we see nature incessantly performing processes, on which organic life and comfort depend, with a practical mathematics as perfect as the theory. And then, how wonderful is the isomeric constitution, recently discovered, of those proximate principles that form the food of animals and plants ! How beautiful, too, the mode — only recently ascertained — by which this nourishment is brought within their reach, and introduced into their systems ! See, too, what wonderful benevolence, as well as