

vindicator of the truth throws out such an insinuation in the public ear, and if the scientific man is not a meek Christian, the ungenerous suggestion may convert into an enemy of the faith one who before was only negligent of it, or indifferent towards it.

But this is not the worst of it. Such a course produces a conviction on the public mind, that men of science teach one thing, and theologians another. Nor can there be a doubt that there is a strong disposition among intelligent men, who are not pious, to take sides with science, even when it seems hostile to revelation; and thus may the severe and unfounded judgment of the theologian, in respect to science, confirm and multiply men of sceptical views.

This point may be illustrated by the history of geology. Ever since Cowper, in his oft-quoted lines, charged geologists with digging and boring the strata in order to disprove the history of Moses, almost all subsequent writers have repeated the accusation; and I doubt not that the almost universal belief now is, that the works of geologists abound with open or covert attacks upon revelation. But the impression is entirely erroneous. In perhaps four out of five of those works, you will find able attempts to reconcile the facts of geology with Scripture; but I have never met with a single attempt, in any language, by any respectable geologist, to adduce the facts of the science to the discredit of revelation. Many of them are, doubtless, sceptical; but they have not done this thing, as they are charged. If it has been done at all, it is by men of no reputation as geologists. Yet probably it will require another quarter of a century to rid the public mind of this false impression.\*

\* How easy would it be to substantiate these statements by quotations from the most eminent geological writers of the last fifty years; such as Jameson,