

THE RELIGIOUS BEARINGS OF MAN'S CREATION.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Genesis ii. 7.

SCEPTICAL minds are fond of selecting and giving prominence to those facts, historical or scientific, that have an unfavorable bearing upon religion. This is natural; and why should not the friends of religion sometimes illustrate subjects derived from the same fields, which strengthen our faith, and clarify our views of the great principles of natural and revealed truth? Guided by this principle, I propose this morning to discuss the religious bearings of man's creation.

Of this event we have two records; the one revealed, the other scientific. Let us look at the details of both, and then we shall be able to see the religious relations of the subject.

The scriptural account of man's creation is full, explicit, and peculiar; more so than any other event of the six days' work. I shall call your attention to a few only of the prominent facts therein developed; particularly such as have a parallel in the scientific history of our world.

1. *Revelation teaches us that man was the last of the animals created.*

None of them were produced till the fifth day, when the