

in the theory of religion? I have touched, however, upon only a single point, where natural and revealed theology meet; and doubtless other points, equally prolific of important instruction, lie along the line of junction, waiting only careful investigation. And is not this sort of research what the spirit of the present age demands? Infidelity has long since claimed the testimony of science as on her side; and I fear that too often the expounders of revealed theology have half admitted the claim, and felt that the less they had to do with natural religion the better. But this jealousy of the religious bearings of science is entirely unfounded; and if ever she has seemed to speak against revealed truth, it was ventriloquism, and not her natural language. Let the preachers of the gospel diligently explore the fields of natural religion, and many a rich gem of truth shall reward their search, which, polished by the hand of learned piety, shall sparkle even in the fair crown of Christianity. To preach Christ crucified should be, indeed, their chief aim and effort. But if they would be workmen that need not be ashamed, they should be able to draw the illustration and defence of the truth from the whole field of nature, as well as of revelation. And whether they seek responses at the shrine of God's word, or his works, or his providence, they will find unity, harmony, and mutual corroboration. The rays of truth coming through these different media may, indeed, be of different colors; but they will be found sweetly blending into one unbroken bow of light, painted on the retiring cloud of error and sin, and presaging the glories of earth's latter day.