

to Scripture, and therefore to be met by the most determined resistance.

The third class believe in the divine inspiration and authority of every part of the Bible; but they admit also the great principles of geology, and think the two records not only reconcilable, but that they cast mutual light upon each other, and that geology lends important aid to some of the most important truths of revelation.

With this last class our views coincide entirely, and we regard it as useless in this work to describe the theories by which the other classes attempt to sustain their views, since the authority of the Bible is destroyed by the first, and the settled principles of science ignored by the second. The third is the stand-point which we shall occupy in enumerating the most important illustrations and corroborations derived by revelation from geology.

We think it is an error committed by some of the ablest writers on this subject, that they have attempted to draw out a complete system of reconciliation and illustration between Genesis and geology. For it is obvious that the Mosaic account is fragmentary; or, as an able writer has expressed it, it gives us only the *memorabilia* of creation, but not a full and detailed account. Hence if we expect to find in the Scriptures something corresponding to all the details of geology, and in the same order, we shall be disappointed; because it was not the object of Moses to give us a full account of the creation, and in a scientific dress. Let us now enumerate some of the points in revelation that derive support or illustration from geology, and also show the harmony of the two records.

1. *The Scriptures and geology agree in not fixing the time of the creation of the world.* The Bible says it was made "in the beginning," and language is scarcely capable of more indefiniteness as to time; nor is there any necessary connection between this general proposition and the facts which follow.

Geology is alike indefinite. We see, indeed, on its records a great number of distinct facts, but no clue is given as to their chronology; and in fact no hint as to the first act, the production of matter.

We might stop here, and with good reason take the ground, that having proved the preceding proposition, nothing further is