

his independence of his Maker seemed about to gain new vigour by acquiring a fresh vantage-ground. The old cry of the eternity of matter, and the 'all things remain as they were from the beginning until now,' rung in my ears. *God with us*, in the world of science henceforth to be no more ! The very evidences of His being seemed about to be removed into a more distant and dimmer region, and a dreary swamp of infidelity spread onwards and backwards throughout the past eternity.

Without stopping to inquire whether, although the science of Geology *had* been revolutionized, those fears were not altogether exaggerated, it is enough at present to know, that as Geology has *not* been revolutionized, there is no need to entertain the question. I trust I have at least succeeded in furnishing the reader with such references,—few and simple when we once know where to find them,—as may enable him to decide upon this important matter for himself. If I have learned anything in the course of the investigations which I have been endeavouring to make, it is to take nothing upon credence, but to wait patiently for all the evidence which can be brought to bear upon the subject before me ; and this, I believe, is the only way to make any approximation to a correct opinion. In truth, the science of Geology is itself in that condition, that no fact ought to be accepted as a basis for reasoning of a solid kind, until it has run the round of investigation by the most competent authorities, and has stood the test of time. It is peculiarly subject to the cry of lo, here ! and lo, there ! from false and imperfectly informed teachers ; and I believe the men most thoroughly to be relied on are those who are the slowest to theorize, the last to form a judgment, and