

the flesh-eaters among them fierce and carnivorous ; and, of course, shortened their bowels, lengthened their teeth, and stuck formidable claws into the points of their digits.* Further, the error of Turretine was but that of his age, whereas our modern decriers of scientific fact and inference are always men greatly in the rear of theirs, and as far inferior to the ancient assertors of the same errors as the few untutored peasants and fishermen of our own time, located in remote parts of the country, who still retain the old faith in witchcraft, are inferior to the great lawyers, poets, and divines,—the Fairfaxes, Henry Mores, Judge Haleses, and Sir George Mackenzies,—who in the seventeenth century entertained a similar belief. And so it may seem somewhat idle work to take any pains in “scattering” such a “rear of darkness thin” as this forlorn phalanx composes. “Let them alone,” said a lunatic in the lucid fit, to a soldier who had told him, when asked why he carried a sword, that it was to kill his enemies,—“let them alone, and they will all die of themselves.” But, though very inconsiderable, there is a comparatively large proportion of the class perilously posted, on both sides of the Atlantic, in what used to be termed of old in Scotland “the chair of verity ;” and there they some-

* The gentleman here referred to lectured no later than October 1853 against the doctrines of the geologists ; and modestly chose as the scene of his labours the city of Hutton and Playfair. What he set himself specially to “demonstrate” was, as he said, that the geologic “theories as to antiquity of the earth, successive eras, &c., were not only fallacious and unphilosophical, but rendered nugatory the authority of the sacred Scriptures.” Not only, however, did he exert himself in demolishing the geologists as infidel, but he denounced also as unsound the theology of good old Isaac Watts. The lines taught us in our infancy,—

“Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
For God hath made them so,”—

were, he remarked, decidedly heterodox. They ought to have run instead,—

“Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
Satan hath made them so.”!!!