

“ If I understand Geology aright, (says Professor Hitchcock,) so far from teaching the eternity of the world, it proves more directly than any other science can, that its revolutions and races of inhabitants had a commencement, and that it contains within itself the chemical energies, which need only to be set at liberty, by the will of their Creator, to accomplish its destruction. Because this science teaches that the revolutions of nature have occupied immense periods of time, it does not therefore teach that they form an eternal series. It only enlarges our conceptions of the Deity; and when men shall cease to regard Geology with jealousy and narrow minded prejudices, they will find that it opens fields of research and contemplation as wide and as grand as astronomy itself.”*†

“ There is in truth, (says Bishop Blomfield) no opposition nor inconsistency between Religion and Science, commonly so called, except

* Hitchcock's Geology of Massachusetts, P. 395.

† “ Why should we hesitate to admit the existence of our Globe through periods as long as geological researches require; since the sacred word does not declare the time of its original creation; and since such a view of its antiquity enlarges our ideas of the operations of the Deity in respect to duration, as much as astronomy does in regard to space? Instead of bringing us into collision with Moses, it seems to me that Geology furnishes us with some of the grandest conceptions of the Divine Attributes and Plans to be found in the whole circle of human knowledge.” Hitchcock's Geology of Massachusetts, 1835, p. 225.