

learned them in the most effectual way, not only in the cabinet, but abroad on the face of nature, and in her deep recesses. They will then be convinced that geology is not an enemy, but an ally of revealed religion; that the subject is not to be mastered by mere criticism; that criticism must be applied to facts, as well as to words, and that there is, at most, only an apparent incongruity—an incongruity which vanishes before investigation.

The mode in which the subject is now treated, or neglected, by many theologians and critics, (not by all, for there are honorable exceptions,) is not safe, as regards its bearing on the minds of youth. If they go forth into the world in the stiffness of the letter, and without the knowledge or proper application of the facts, it is impossible that they should sustain themselves against those who, with great knowledge, and no reverence, may too powerfully assail what they cannot defend. In the pulpit, however, geology can be but very imperfectly explained, even by him who understands it; for it is impossible that he should there, intelligibly and adequately exhibit his proofs; they rest on a multitude of facts unknown to a common audience; and they are too dependent on specimens, sections and other graphical illustrations, to be understood in such circumstances, especially by those who have enjoyed no mental preparation in kindred sciences, and in courses of inductive reasoning. As the subject has no other connexion with our faith as Christians, than so far as it affects the credibility of the early scripture history, it is therefore wise, as to the literal sense of the days, not to disturb the early and habitual impressions of the common people, or even of the enlightened, who are ignorant of geology. Any discussions before such audiences, and in such circumstances, will be misunderstood, or not understood at all, and will only prejudice the reputation of the speaker, without benefitting the hearer.

This, however, does not excuse the theologian from being fully prepared to meet the subject, in other places, and in situations, where it will be forced upon his attention. *It is a part of the panoply of truth, in which he should be fully clad, although he may rarely draw his bow, and perhaps never let fly an arrow from his appropriate watch tower.*

As the case now stands, with respect to most theologians in this country, the geological arguments in support of the Mosaic history, although powerful and convincing, are unknown and neglected, or they are avoided; and of course they can be, and they actually are, by some few geologists, turned, with too much success, against the