

many years been shining before the world, and of whose sincerity no scoffer (of whatever school) will dare to start a doubt—recorded his opinion in the great assembly of the men of science, who during the past year were gathered from every corner of the Empire within the walls of this University, *that Christianity had every thing to hope and nothing to fear from the advancement of philosophy\**. These are golden words, and full of meaning to those who have wisdom to understand them. But there are some to whom this great Assembly has been a topic of offence. They belong to a psychological class of their own; gifted indeed with very humble powers in following out true consequences, either moral or physical; but compensated, in return, with gifts of another kind. Like birds of bad omen they can croak of coming ills and smell corruption from afar; and by the powers of a new analysis—a perverted moral alchemy—they can extract evil out of good and dross out of gold.

Another indiscretion (far different however from the egregious follies I have just noticed) has been committed by some excellent christian writers on the subject of Geology. They have not denied the facts established by this science, nor have they confounded the nature of physical and moral evidence: but they have prematurely (and therefore, without an adequate knowledge of all the facts essential to the argument) endeavoured to bring the natural history of the Earth into a literal accordance with the book of Genesis—first, by greatly extending the periods of time implied by the six days of creation

\* Speech of Dr Chalmers at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. June, 1833.