

ledge, whose acquirements in the exact sciences, their highest branches, and their most astonishing applications are acknowledged with admiration through the world ; who has deeply studied the nature and rules of evidence ; and who is not an enemy, but a professed friend to Revealed Religion : he marches up to the front of the imagined discrepance,—and we see the strength of his conviction. He is indeed satisfied, for himself, that Geology and Revelation are not at variance ; and his method of resolving the difficulty will be mentioned in a future lecture. But, we may ask in the mean time, What is the conclusion which the uninstructed observer ought in fairness to draw ? Can he satisfy himself with the assertion, that the most eminent geologists are, in general, secret or open infidels ; that their doctrines upon the constitution and antiquity of the earth, are fond fancies changeable as the wind, or irreligious hypotheses of men “ ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth ;” and that he runs no risk of being mistaken, or of becoming the instrument of moral injury to others, perhaps his own children, by making it an article of religion to maintain that all dependent nature came from the creative power of the Supreme Being, only about six thousand years ago ? Will he say that all solicitude upon the question may be safely dismissed, and that he gains firm footing for his faith on this subject by reposing upon an *interpretation* of the Mosaic records, which though extensively received, has been seriously doubted of by sound expositors in ancient and in modern times, and by some absolutely disallowed :—yea, independently of geological knowledge ?

An inquiry thus opens before us which cannot but appear, to every reflecting person, to be of the first importance. “RELIGION is the highest style of man.” But