

But there are two sciences, Astronomy and Geology, which bring us into an acquaintance with facts of amazing grandeur and interest, concerning the Extent and the Antiquity of the created Universe. The knowledge which each communicates rests upon its own appropriate evidence; in the one case, the evidence of sense obtained by innumerable observations made and compared by the most competent men, and confirmed by rigorous mathematical processes; and, in the other, the evidence of sense also and the testimony of a host of accomplished observers, and, though not to the same perfect extent as Astronomy, yet, in a degree which objectors little imagine, receiving support from mathematical applications.

Are then the discoveries and deductions of those sciences consistent, or are they not, with the declarations of primeval divine revelation?

We cannot but expect such consistency. Our Creator has given us faculties suited to the perception and the right appreciation of it. Cases indeed are conceivable, and they do occur, in which difficulties appear, because we see only detached portions of the truth, and the intervening parts of our field of view are covered with an obscurity which we cannot dispel. Yet such cases are not those of contradictory propositions, in which the affirming of one destroys that of the other. But this is the predicament of the subject which we have to consider. If from the discoveries of Astronomy and Geology we infer that the created universe, including our own globe, has existed through an unknown but unspeakably long period of time past; and IF, from the records of revelation *we draw the conclusion* that the work of creation, or at least so far as respects our planet, took place not quite six thousand years ago; it is evident that the two positions cannot both stand: one destroys the other. One