

of them must be an error ; both may be wrong ; only one can be right.

Our first care must be to ascertain the true state of the facts, on each side. Are the propositions respectively drawn from their premises, by sound reasoning ? Have we guarded sufficiently against all causes of error ? Are the facts in nature satisfactorily proved ? And is our interpretation of the Scriptures legitimate ? Doubts and renewed investigation of the latter question imply no precarious issue with respect to the great designs of revelation. "The foundation of God standeth sure." The great principles of faith and obedience, hope and happiness ; the doctrines, warnings, and promises of the gospel ; shine forth in the most clear and satisfying manner : and their certainty is not diminished by philological inquiry into the interpretation of words, or by discussing the relations to history and antiquities, and other collateral bearings of the Scriptures. For example ; the recent discoveries in the monuments of Egypt have cast much light upon the history of the phraseology of the Old Testament, by bringing to our knowledge facts and usages which were before imperfectly or not at all known : but these accessions of knowledge, and the more correct interpretation of particular passages which we hence obtain, take nothing from us in any other respect, but add materially to the proofs and the right understanding of the whole system of revelation. The more firmly we stand upon the rock of evidence, the more completely we possess the "assurance of faith."

TRUTH, therefore, is our object : Truth, in religion, in morals, and in natural science. The more completely we attain it, if we faithfully apply it to its proper purposes, the more we shall bring happiness to ourselves and our fellow-creatures, and reverential honour to our God.