

tion, have decidedly and boldly opposed such views" as these imputations of atheism.—"The course which" those opponents "have taken, will inevitably produce, among pious men, not familiar with science, a prejudice against it and a jealousy of its cultivation. How disastrous such a result would be, let the painful history of the past testify."—Further, "these works are distinguished by the adoption of very extravagant theories, and very great distortion of Geological facts, as well as of the language of Scripture.—None but a Geologist can know what absurdities must be received, and what distortions made of facts, before such opinions can be embraced.—To the Geologist they appear a thousand times more extravagant and opposed to facts, than any opinions that have been entertained by the cultivators of this science.—But these hypotheses require scarcely less perversion of the Sacred Records."—After giving an instance of this bold dealing with the Bible, the Professor adds, "This, in the matter of interpretation, is 'straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel.'—We have no doubt that" these and similar writers "are sincerely desirous of vindicating Revelation from the attacks of scientific skeptics, and that this desire prompted them to write as they have done. But we cannot doubt that the effect of their works on [those of] real Geologists who are skeptical, will be very unhappy. Such persons will see that these authors—do not understand the subject about which they write; and they will see a spirit manifested which will not greatly exalt their ideas of the influence of Christianity."\*

I next ask attention to a passage, conspicuous for the beauty of its language and the justness of its reasoning, from one of the ornaments of the University of Cambridge, the Rev. Adam Sedgwick, Woodwardian Professor of Mineralogy and Geology.

"A philosopher may smile at the fulminations of the Vatican against those who, with Copernicus, maintained the motion of the earth: but he ought to *sigh*, when he finds that the heart of man is no better than it was of old, and that his arrogance and folly are still the same.—There are still found some who dare to affirm that the pursuits of natural science are hostile to religion. An assertion

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\* Historical and Geological Deluges Compared; in the American Biblical Repository, vol. IX. passages from p. 108 to 114; 1837.