

themselves by the suffrages of eminent commentators, none of whom had the least acquaintance with these subjects, is the only true one. Some of them reckon it among the highest points of the Christian faith, that the first sentence in the Book of Genesis is not an independent proposition, a simple, majestic, and complete enunciation of one grand truth ; but that it is connected with the recital of the six days' work, in such a manner as to allow of no interval of time between the facts related. To have a doubt upon this matter is represented as characteristic of a criminal state of mind, not deserving to be refuted by kind and calm argument, but which ought to be put down by awful rebukes and threatenings. I shall transcribe a few words of a fervid writer of this school.

“This ‘first day’ is THE BEGINNING: and, if we fix that beginning by the eternal testimony of the same truth, (which the same God of truth will do, and has done, for us,) all the vain ‘nebulosities’ of a graceless philosophy are dispelled for ever.—[This is] the self-evident definition of the *beginning* which God himself has given.—And we here defy all the combined ability of infidelity, philosophy, and geology, to *prove* the ‘beginning’ to have been anterior to the ‘first day’ God here intends.—No geologist who may read these pages will henceforth remain ignorant of his war against Omnipotence and Everlasting Truth. And we again sacredly defy all the combined ability of sophistical Geologists, to the end of time, to prove either our Scriptural positions false, or their geological positions true.—We have insubvertibly established it from the lips of Eternal Veracity, that neither the earth, nor the material of which it was formed, nor any creature that is found therein, had existence before ‘the first day’ of the revealed creation: that truth we have undeniably and everlastingly established, insubvertible and immoveable by human ability.—Certainly, of all the lately discovered or extended sciences, which the enemy of God and man has thus pushed to his destroying ends, no one has been found so appropriate to his purposes, nor has been so insidiously and industriously driven forward to the accomplishment of his aims, as the popular ‘new science’ of Geology.—To enumerate all the infernal artillery, which the subtle enemy of God and man has put into the hands of his vassals, to