

and peremptory a tone, that they are infallible and incapable of being subverted; at least till the other side has been heard. Also, on my own behalf as an humble geologist, (and I confidently join with myself men of the greatest eminence in geological attainments,)—I disown and reject with the strongest abhorrence the imputation of evading, or denying, or in any way perverting the Holy Scriptures, or taking away their inspiration: and I maintain also that those persons do no honour to the word of God, but are unwittingly serving the designs of its enemies, who judge of it in the superficial, hasty, and flippant manner here exemplified; who choose not to search out its true sense by those means of criticism and explication which God has put into our hands; and who bury the Christian dispositions of humility and meekness under their imperious dogmatism and assumed infallibility. It will be the business of a future lecture to explain and apply those principles of honest philology by which we are bound to study and interpret the Scriptures, and which, it is my full conviction, will show that the true sense of the beginning of Genesis does not contradict the geological doctrines which are made the objects of these unmeasured reproaches.

The Reverend gentleman to whose observations I have been compelled to advert, makes large extracts from Luther's Commentary on the Book of Genesis; and displays, with exultation and triumph, that great man's opinion of the creative act, described in the second sentence, as having immediately followed upon the primary one declared in the first. I yield not to that gentleman in veneration and love for the illustrious Reformer; for his devoted piety, his noble independence of mind, his simplicity and perspicuity, the ingenuity and liveliness of his remarks, his judgment and even his taste: but I do not see the propriety of attributing to him, or to any man of