

rapid, must have acquired a stationary condition thousands of years ago: so that our climates now are dependent solely upon the action of the sun, and the superficial causes of radiation. We have reason to regard it as highly probable, and we may hope that the exact researches upon which eminent mathematicians are now engaged will bring an approximating certainty to the conclusion, that this point was reached some time before the creation of man, and that it was a part of the processes by which the earth was adapted to its present destination among the works of God.

With a solemnity and fidelity for which he has my cordial gratitude, this Christian monitor sounds the alarm against forgetting "the most valuable axiom of human science, that man is ignorant and weak;" and that he ought therefore "to be thankful for what he is permitted to know," but "submissive where God has been pleased to set a barrier to further knowledge." He comprehends geological investigations among what he considers as not "subjects of lawful inquiry,—shrouded from us by a higher power," to be reckoned "a *dark art*,—dangerous and disreputable." To these cautions he adds the assertion, "Surely an humble mind will be ready to confess that events which took place before the birth of man, or the date of revelation, belong to a forbidden province."

I cannot for a moment doubt the good motive from which this strain of admonition has proceeded. The author's fundamental principle, upon the duty of modesty and humility, is unquestionably of the first importance. The best friends of science will unite with him in deprecating the pride and vanity which pretend to carry researches beyond the limits which the Author of our nature has prescribed. But he has not brought an atom of evidence to prove that the efforts of Geology, or of any other branch of Natural Philosophy, involve any ex-