

ducing an adverb, requiring to be rendered by such words as *when, at the time, after.**

3. Upon the very face of the document, it is manifest that in the first chapter the word is used in its ordinary sense. For this primeval record (terminating, as was remarked in a former lecture, with the third verse of the second chapter) is not a poem, nor a piece of oratorical diction; but is a narrative, in the simple style which marks the highest majesty. It would be an indication of a deplorable want of taste for the beauty of language, to put a patch of poetical diction upon this face of natural simplicity. But, one might think that no doubt would remain to any man who had before his eyes the concluding formula of each of the six partitions, "And evening was, and morning was, day one;" and so throughout the series, repeating exactly the same form; only introducing the ordinal numbers, till we arrive at the last, "And evening was, and morning was, day the sixth."

4. If there were no other reason against this, which I may call device of interpretation, it would appear quite sufficient to require its rejection, that it involves so large an extension in the liberty, or license, of figurative speech. Poetry speaks very allowably of the day of prosperity or of sorrow, the day of a dynasty or of an empire: but the case before us requires a stretch of hyperbole which would be monstrous. A few hundreds, or even thousands, of days turned into years, would not supply a period sufficiently ample to meet the exigency of geological reasoning; while this way of proceeding, to obtain the object desired, is sacrificing the propriety and certainty of language, and producing a feeling of revolt in the mind of a plain reader of the Bible.

* Examples are numerous; as Exod. xiv. 57; Num. xxx. 5, &c.; Deut. xxi. 16; 2 Sam. xxii. 1; Neh. xiii. 15. Many other instances are adduced in Noldii Concord. Partic. Hebr.