

shocks many of their friends, which is denounced as of an irreligious and skeptical character, and which therefore forces them to lie under suspicion and reproach ; and, finally, that some of these men, and those the most ready to make the avowal, are consecrated ministers and zealous advocates of the Christian Religion :—this side of the supposition does indeed involve such an amount of deliberate baseness,—that it exceeds my capacity of belief !

2. The worthy persons who oppose what I may, not assumingly, call the whole body of geologists, have had no very difficult task to perform. There may be two or three exceptions : but we may safely affirm that they in general have not spent those years of patient application which the case demands in order to have the prerequisites for forming a correct judgment : but they take up an alluring book, Buckland's Bridgewater Treatise, perhaps, or Lyell's Principles : or, more probably, they may have been content with some of the older and very defective authors. From this they select a few statements, which, by their want of previous knowledge, they are exposed to no small risk of failing to understand. Of the great number of facts necessary to be known, many are overlooked, and many are forgotten ; and among them are some which make no very prominent appearance in a verbal description, but the omission to grasp and apply which will vitiate the entire body of conceptions which the hasty compiler is forming. He finds incoherencies, and has no suspicion that they are produced only by the fragmentary character of his own attainments : he puts them down and

to believe that they could : and they did not give up the hope, or seek for a new interpretation of the sacred text, till they considered themselves driven from their position by such facts as we have stated.—If, even now, a reasonable, or we might say *possible* solution were offered, they would, we feel persuaded, gladly revert to their original opinions." *Christ. Obs.* Aug. 1834 ; p. 566.