

is evidently versed in some parts of recent Natural History; and, in this respect, he may be put into the same class with a respectable clergyman, the Rev. William Kirby, who, in his Bridgewater Treatise, having wandered out of his proper province to introduce some of the wildest speculations upon geological subjects that ever germinated in the brain of man, while in the same work, he generously relieves our astounded minds by acknowledging that he has not studied Geology. Surely this is a lesson and a monitory example for us all, to refrain from hazarding opinions upon subjects with which we are conscious of being but insufficiently acquainted.

Mr. Fairholme exercises great ability, I might call it adroitness, in the whole strain of his work; with a strong tincture of severity and sarcasm upon the objects of his censure; and with a boldness of assertion and the frequent assumption of a triumphant tone which is likely to lead captive an uninformed reader. He rests most confidently upon an argument derived from the forms of valleys, which Dr. Buckland had before laid before the world, but which he has since with equal publicity, retracted, or so modified as to render it incapable of warranting the conclusion in favour of which Mr. Fairholme avails himself of it: yet he does not, so far as I have observed, take notice of such modification, though the fact itself, under all its circumstances, had surely no little claim to respectful notice. Dr. Fleming also, a zealous advocate of the authority of Scripture, had long before maintained the utility of this argument.

In preference to resting upon my own opinion of the productions of Mr. Penn, Mr. Kirby, and Mr. Fairholme, I will quote that of Professor Hitchcock; a man whose religious character, his candour and fairness in discussion, and his extensive acquaintance with geological subjects,—an acquaintance gained not merely by studious reading