

and reflection, but by the hard labour of years in riverbeds, ocean-coasts, gorges, and mountains,—entitle him to the confidence which is due to a man who understands what he is writing about.

“ Will it be believed, that a really able and scientific man, writing by appointment of the President of the Royal Society—in the year 1835, should have revived and adopted, with slight modifications, the essential features of this hypothesis” [Thomas Burnett’s] “ of dissolution and reconsolidation of the earth by the deluge ?”——“ It is not necessary to go into a formal exhibition of the absurdity of such views as these: for, unless a new school of Physico-Theologists should arise, and Geological Science as well as Biblical Criticism revert to their condition one hundred years ago, they will not be adopted.—We do no injustice to that gentleman by saying this: while *justice* to the cause of science as connected with religion, requires us to do it.—Such exhibitions can have no other than a bad effect upon the cause evidently so near Mr. Kirby’s heart, the defence of Natural and Revealed Religion. For the inevitable effect upon the Skeptical Geologist, will be to make him throw aside the work, and we fear the whole series” [of the Bridgewater Treatises,] “ in disgust. We have before us a letter from one of the ablest living Geologists of this description, which well exhibits the effects of such productions. ‘ It gives me pain (says he) to find a man so estimable in every respect as * * * [not Mr. Kirby,] compelled to cling to theories impossible to defend, from reasons unconnected with science. It has injured his well-earned reputation; and I think *has injured* the great cause he has at heart, the interests of the Christian Religion: for this must be the effect of connecting it with opinions which are manifestly no more than the best conclusions that wise and good men of former days were induced to adopt, when they had but few facts, inaccurately observed, to reason from.’——There is another bad effect resulting from the adoption of such untenable and exploded opinions by a standard writer. The greater part of even educated men have not the leisure requisite for pursuing the subjects of natural science, so accurately as to be able to form independent opinions upon difficult questions connected with it. Hence, when a man like Mr. Kirby, of acknowledged distinction in science, and evidently jealous for the honour of Natural and Revealed Religion, advances opinions on the connexions of science with revelation, they will have a wide influence and be extensively adopted: and, if they happen to be wrong, they will powerfully arrest the pro-