

Two years ago, a venerable clergyman, of whom it would not be easy to speak in terms of too high respect, the Rev. Thomas Gisborne, one of the Prebendaries of Durham, published his "Considerations on the Modern Theories of Geology." If Christian piety, good temper, fine talent, and elegant expression, could alone secure correctness of sentiment upon a subject of natural knowledge, we should have had nothing to regret in relation to this work. But the sources of error, which have been already described, have unhappily poured their influence into Mr. Gisborne's mind. The prevalent and deeply working prejudice against the modern Geology, that it seeks to undermine the authority of the Scriptures, and consequently to destroy our faith in Christianity, has led Mr. Gisborne into the adoption of the most imperfect views of geological facts, and into the pleasing fallacy of what Professor Sedgwick calls "making a world after a pattern of our own." He employs his great ability in finding or in imagining faults and inconsistencies in the doctrines advanced by geologists, while it is manifest that his acquaintance with the subjects of their attention is extremely limited; and that his perusal of their writings has been but cursory, and far from being comprehensive, or such as could be made the basis of safe argument. The inconsequence of reasoning, into which this excellent man has allowed himself, I am sure unconsciously, to be drawn, we can scarcely hope that, in his very advanced age, he will be brought to discover: but it has subjected him to the cutting suggestion of a clergyman of his own communion, who concludes a page of criticism upon the Prebendary's pamphlet, with the words, "This is surely not an age, in which dignitaries of the Church should be found arraying themselves in hostility to science."*

* Powell's Connexion; p. 281.