

immediate, by misleading the honest but uninformed; and remote, by producing a revulsion, to the injury of faith in the Scriptures, when those persons may come hereafter to be better informed. Indeed, I may express the belief that this is a common character of certain books and papers, which seem to be mutual copyists, in the qualities of blind and obstinate blundering, and vehement censuring of others who take some pains to understand before they write and publish; while these easy writers allow themselves no narrow indulgence in the formation of purely ideal and often very ignorant theories, by which they fancy that they can account for every thing.\*

A gentleman entitled to our high regard as a Christian minister and a cultivator of natural science, Dr. George Young of Whitby, has recently published a small work with the title, "Scriptural Geology." He possesses the advantage of having resided many years in a most interesting district for this branch of study; and he has

\* There have been in the Christian Observer for 1832, 1834, 1839, and at other times, many valuable remarks of the Editor and communications from his correspondents, upon the studies of Geology. Many of those papers might be particularized as preëminently valuable: but to attempt such a discrimination would be digressing too far, in this incidental notice. I may, however, recommend *con amore* the poetical *jeu d'esprit*, "The Fossil Shell," by the Rev. Samuel Charles Wilks; in the vol. for 1834, page 219. From an article published since these lectures were delivered, I feel happy in taking a citation. "The anti-geologists taunt the geologists with their diversities of opinion, but keep back that no two of themselves agree: whereas the geologists, amidst all their controversies, are unanimous, as to the main points which their opponents represent as heretical; namely, [1,] the impossibility of condensing the actual phenomena of the fossil strata into the space of six thousand, or many times six thousand years; or [2,] of admitting, with due regard to the voice of truth, that the death of animals is not to be traced to a much more remote period.—A man only betrays his own ignorance or incapacity, who affects to sneer at modern physical science."—A letter signed Fides; Christ. Obs. for July, 1839, p. 404. In the same work for the month of August, p. 473, is a just and gentlemanly castigation of *Biblicus Delvinus*.