

and by other works on natural science. The last year, he published "The Age of the Earth, considered Geologically and Historically." He understands his subject far more than some of whom we have been obliged to speak, and discusses it with calmness and candour. He lays down facts, too briefly and generally indeed, and not always, I fear, accurately, but with the nature and relations of which he is acquainted; and he is far from being dogmatical in his manner. Yet I must own that, to my apprehension, he seems to be labouring under the disadvantages of an inquirer whose mind is filled beforehand with the idea that he absolutely must establish a previously dictated doctrine. I cannot with full satisfaction accord to him the praise of impartiality. He brings forward facts and phenomena that may be made to look favourably upon the views which he is anxious to confirm; and touches very lightly or entirely passes over others which are necessary to a more complete view of the evidence.* His mind is imbued with the idea, that the voice of the Eternal and Omniscient Being, speaking by the instrumentality of his inspired servants, has clearly fixed a limit to physical research, and has positively revealed the commencement of universal creation to have been nearly coincident with that of the human race. He affirms, that "the most obvious and general impression of these revelations on the human mind, cannot be mistaken or controverted;" [as being to this effect,] "that the world was created, and furnished with plants and animals, for the express habitation of man, within a definite

* As many of Mr. Rhind's arguments are drawn from the geological structure of the country round Edinburgh, considerable advantage would be derived by a careful student from the far more comprehensive and exact descriptions of the same region, by Mr. Maclaren, in his Sketch of the Geology of Fife and the Lothians; 1839. The results of his investigations, as applied to the time elapsed since the deposition of even the carboniferous strata, are in striking contrast to Mr. Rhind's opinions.