

(some of whom we have had occasion to refer to) of inconsistency and vicious reasoning; he shows that the time implied between the first action declared in the Book of Genesis and the ensuing facts is left undecided and indefinite; he expresses himself very favourably to the doctrine of the central heat; he has just views of the difference and disposition of strata and the characters of the imbedded vegetable and animal remains; and, though he maintains the universality of the deluge of Noah, he considers its effects and vestiges as merely superficial, and that it is utterly absurd to ascribe to it the formation of strata. Throughout this part of his interesting volumes, he proves how vain are the fears of those who apprehend injury to religion from geological discoveries, he exposes the false reasonings of infidel pretenders, and he manifests the consistency of those very positions which have been vehemently condemned, upon the antiquity and mutations of the earth, with the testimony of the sacred writings. The impartiality, good temper, and equity of this Romish priest ought to put to shame some Protestant animadvertisers.

A pleasing exception therefore is made by these volumes of Principal Wiseman, to the larger part of books like those upon which I have thought myself called to animadvert. Of them it may be said that, however dissimilar in some respects, they agree in certain characters: such are, the laying down of facts or statements in a partial manner, thus producing defective and often widely erroneous impressions; the keeping out of sight other facts which would be adverse to their hypotheses, probably from not being themselves acquainted with those facts; a frequent forgetfulness of equity in stating and describing the objects under consideration; their being either insensible to the difficulties which belong to their own schemes, or not feeling any obligation to remove