

those difficulties; in short, their carrying on their arguments in the way which, in another department of human talent, bears the name of *special pleading*.

Striking is the contrast which this method of reasoning and writing bears to the character of a work which I do not say is unexceptionable, but which, for completeness and accuracy, for fairness of statement and perspicuity of exposition, for force of reasoning and felicity of suggestion, stands forth among the books of our day, very signally distinguished; but which has been made an object of censure and suspicion, by some who have never carefully studied it, and of serious regret by most intelligent and candid geologists;—Mr. Lyell's *Principles of Geology*. We cannot but lament that he takes so slight a notice of the bearings of his subject upon the ancient records of revelation; using loose and general expressions when precise distinctions were called for, and thus laying himself open to painful imputations. The hope had been cherished that, in the editions after the first, he would have obviated serious objections which had been advanced in a spirit so candid and kind as to have possessed a just claim upon his respect.* This however he has not done. It therefore remains for the readers of his

* In particular, some remarks upon a passage in his Fifth Chapter, published in the *Christian Observer*, April 1834; p. 200.—It is with no captious spirit, but with sincere respect and solicitude, that I would ask this eminently gifted man, why, in his beautiful chapter (the viiith of Book III.) on the Introduction, Extinction, and Vicissitudes of Species, he has so dexterously escaped from any mention of the Almighty Creator? He has not said indeed, or implied, that a new species has ever, in the world's history, come into being without God as its cause; but it is painful to see the semblance of reserve on so soul-stirring a theme. He speaks of "admiration—strongly excited, when we contemplate the powers of insect-life, in the *creation* of which *nature* has been so prodigal."—Nature?—Creation?—O, why did not his heart grow warm within him, and bound with joy, at the opportunity of doing some homage to the God of glorious majesty?