

his retention of his own belief; which he did. But persecution is the parent of hypocrisy. A consistent Christian would have died, rather than have infringed his integrity. Yet, not hurling condemnation, but pitying the illustrious Florentine, let us turn his history into a lesson for ourselves. In things of every kind, earthly as well as spiritual, "godly simplicity and integrity" is the only right course: and, whatever it may cost, it will bring happiness in the end.—But it is not so much known that, long after that event, pious and learned Protestants viewed Galileo's doctrine with the same alarm and abhorrence as the Romish church professed to feel: and they founded their determination upon the following passages of Scripture.

"He hath established the earth upon its foundations: it shall not be moved for ever and ever.—For upon the seas he hath founded it, and upon the streams he hath fixed it.—O, give thanks unto Him—who hath spread out the earth upon the waters!—The Mount Zion" [and therefore, they inferred, the whole earth, of which any hill or mountain is only a part,]—"shall not be moved, for ever and ever.—Generation goeth, and generation cometh; but the earth for ever standeth.—The sun—rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. From the end of the heavens is his going forth, and his circuit to their uttermost parts.—Praise him, ye heavens of heavens; and ye waters that be above the heavens.—Who stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, who layeth rafters in the waters, his upper chambers."\*

Upon the interpretation which men of the highest ability attached to these declarations of Scripture, they rested the most positive confidence, that the sun flies round the earth every twenty-four hours, and that the earth rests immoveably in the centre of the universe. "This," said one of the most eminent men of the Reformed Church, "we affirm, with all divines, natural philosophers, and as-

\* Psa. civ. 5; xxiv. 2; cxxxvi. 6; Eccles. i. 4. Psa. xix. 6; cxlviii. 4; civ. 3.