

Again: the completed manifestations of the Divine Will in the New Testament raise us to a justness and purity of conception concerning "the things of God," far superior to that which the ministration of Moses and the prophets could supply. The one was obscure, tinged with the spirit of bondage, only a preparatory and temporary system: but the other is "the ministration of righteousness," in comparison with which the former "had no glory."* We stand therefore upon safe ground, and are fully warranted by divine authority, to *translate* the language of the Old Testament upon physical subjects, into such modern expressions as shall be *agreeable to the reality* of the things spoken of.

vine Seiler, Mr. John Sheppard, and probably others. Whether it has been distinctly applied to the interpretation of the Bible, in relation to the objects of natural science, by any writers in particular, I am not able to say. I am aware of but two distinguished authors who have expressly pointed it out: and, as they only indicate it in general terms, the effort in this lecture to pursue it into its details, and to show its application as a shield to scientific investigations, against the misconceptions and alarms of some well-intentioned men, will not, I trust, be held superfluous. The two authors alluded to, are John George Rosenmüller, in a book published more than sixty years ago, and from which the relevant extracts are given in the Appendix, Supplementary Note F; and my honoured friend, Professor Sedgwick, in his Discourse on the Studies of Cambridge:—A "source of error, on physical questions, has been a mistake respecting the import of certain Scripture-phrases. These writings deal not in logical distinctions or rigid definitions. They were addressed to the heart and understanding in popular forms of speech, such as men could readily comprehend. When they describe the Almighty as a being capable of jealousy, love, anger, repentance, and other like passions, they use a language accommodated to our wants and capacities, and God is put before us in the semblance of humanity." Page 147.

* 2 Cor. iii. 10, 11.