

joined with "the heavens," it denotes the entire created world : but it is evident of itself that the practical understanding of the phrase would be in conformity with the ideas of the people who used it. Frequently it stands for the land of Palæstine ; and indeed for any country or district that is mentioned or referred to in the connexion. Sometimes it denotes a mere plot of ground ; and sometimes the soil, clay and sand, or any earthy matter. Often it is put, figuratively, for mankind, as the inhabitants of the world. Considering all the evidence of the case, I can find no reason against our considering the word, subsequently to the first verse, and throughout the whole description of the six days, as designed to express *the part of our world which God was adapting for the dwelling of man and the animals connected with him.* Of the spheroidal figure of the earth, it is evident that the Hebrews had not the most distant conception. The passages which have been quoted, and many others, abundantly convince me that it never entered into the purpose of Revelation to teach men geographical facts, or any other kind of physical knowledge.

I must profess then my conviction that we are not obliged by the terms made use of, to extend the narrative of the six days to a wider application than this ; *a description, in expressions adapted to the ideas and capacities of mankind in the earliest ages, of a series of operations, by which the Being of omnipotent wisdom and goodness adjusted and furnished the earth generally,\** but, as the particular subject under consideration here, a PORTION of its

\* "Geology, therefore, in expounding the former condition of the globe, convinces us that every variation of its surface has been but a step towards the accomplishment of one great end : whilst all such revolutions are commemorated by monuments which, revealing the [proximate] cause and object of each change, compel us to conclude that the Earth can alone have been fashioned into a fit abode for Man by the ordinances of INFINITE WISDOM." Murchison's *Silurian System* ; Vol. I. page 576.