

adapted to endear her to her conjugate, as that the creative power should form her out of his actual bodily substance? Under the dress^s of a child-like narrative, we discover a proceeding of exquisite wisdom and effective tenderness.*

II. We proceed now to inquire what solution the Holy Scriptures afford of that which to many appears a difficulty not only formidable but insuperable, the dominion of PAIN AND DEATH over the animal creation, in all periods of its existence.

The nature of this difficulty was stated in Lecture III, and facts were detailed, both in the disclosures of geological investigation and in the present condition of animated nature, which compel us to admit that production and growth in all organized beings have their correlates in decay and dissolution.

But the general opinion has been that, before our first parents fell from innocence and happiness, death and its harbingers had no place in the inferior animal creation. To maintain consistency, it ought further to have been affirmed that the vegetable kingdom was also preserved from decay, withering, and dying. But men have been probably withheld from setting up such a theory, by consideration of the manifest absurdities into which it would have led its supporters; and by the belief that plants,

* Upon the genius and character of the initial Mosæic records, I earnestly solicit my reader to give his attention to the solid, beautiful, and eloquent Address of the Rev. William Vernon Harcourt, to the British Association, at its late meeting in Birmingham, Aug. 26. It is excellently reported in the Athenæum for Aug. 1831; and will be published authentically in the next Volume of the Reports of the Association. With all respect I cannot but say, that this Address and the many other labours in science, especially geology and its alliances, by which that amiable and accomplished man has distinguished himself, form a mighty shield of defence against the efforts to disparage Geology, which some estimable clergymen and others, mentioned in former parts of this volume, have unhappily put forth.