

tor had been displayed, in diffusing a holy and happy existence through worlds upon worlds, and throughout ages which man cannot number, before he called human kind into existence? If it be said that the "great mystery of godliness," the display of the divine perfections in the work of REDEMPTION, forbids such an extent of our conceptions; I would reply, with humility and deference, that the objector has forgotten the grand attribute of Deity, the basis of all the Divine Perfections,—INFINITY. He is measuring JEHOVAH by a standard applicable only to creatures.—And are not the *purposes* of God, including the glorious plan of salvation to a lost world (Eph. i. 4, 5; iii. 11,) from eternity?—To my judgment and feeling, the grandeur of those heavenly counsels is presented to us more sublimely by the views for which I have been pleading, of the extent, antiquity, and endless duration of the products of God's creative power and provident wisdom.*

But, why do you not let these matters alone? Why do you bring them before the Christian public, distressing the minds of pious persons, and incurring the danger of shaking the faith of your weaker brethren?

I am bound to acknowledge that my own breast is no stranger to the feelings involved in these queries. Scarce-

* Let the reader turn back to the quotation from Mr. Scrope in page 129.—What materials for reflection lie deep in this sentence of the wise and devout Richard Baxter! "I meddle only with mankind; not with angels. Nor will I curiously inquire whether there were *any other world* of men created and destroyed, before this had being." *Saints' Everlasting Rest*; p. 115, ed. 1688. Thus the mind of this good and great man did not absolutely reject the notion of a prior race even of beings like ourselves; though such a notion would have appeared much more in collision with the Scriptures than the admission of creatures quite different from the human. Geology confirms the scriptural doctrine concerning the origin of man, and supplies proofs that man is among the newest productions of the Creator's power, and that our kind had no existence before Adam.