

convictions?—And if we could; if they were to promise silence and to keep the promise; would religion be served thereby?—Examples have not been wanting of complimentary verbiage, with affected solemnity, offered to the Christian religion; while the fraternity of concealed unbelievers can look significantly at each other, and mutually build up their self-flattery and pride; as if they were men immeasurably superior to the vulgar, but who, to sooth prejudice and flatter public opinion, are willing to uphold a style of conventional hypocrisy.

But, can we not throw ourselves into the arms of our brethren in the faith, who, as we have seen, summarily dispose of the whole matter?—We cannot. First; our own convictions stand in the way. The facts cannot be set aside: they are too numerous, too various and independent, and too weighty in their character as grounds of reasoning. Secondly; if we could so put off our reasonable faculties, the great cause would not be relieved. It would be far more deeply injured. The body of scientific men, in every country, would only be confirmed in their hostility, and the more completely discharged from keeping terms with us: while we should be the men that laid Christianity under the feet of its adversaries.*

* “From ill informed, or too often prejudiced persons, we hear frequent remarks disparaging the inquiries and conclusions of the Geologist, while they allow and applaud the inferences of the Astronomer and the Chemist. They condemn as visionary and presumptuous the results of the one as to the antiquity of strata, and the successive eras of animal organization, the monuments of which are before their eyes; while they revere as unquestionable truths the most marvellous and paradoxical inferences of the other, which refer to subjects utterly beyond the scope of the senses, to periods and distances which transcend our arithmetical powers to conceive, and to processes of nature which exceed our faculties to apprehend.—Yet, when the Geologist contends that the crust of the earth, with its organized productions, has been gradually brought into its present condition, by a series of CREATIVE changes, going on through millions of ages; his conclusion is condemned as chimerical and danger-