

denunciation in Gen. ii. 17, would seem to imply that they understood *what* the penalty was, in consequence of their having witnessed the pangs of death, in the inferior animals.

5. What, then, is the meaning of Rom. viii. 20—"The creation (ver. 22, all the creation) has been made subject to vanity," &c.? I reply, that here the word (which is used in different senses and under great limitations, as in Col. i. 23; 1 Pet. ii. 13) denotes the part of the created universe which is immediately related to man, or comes under his influence; and that "vanity" denotes the frustration of high and holy purposes to which that part of the universe is subjected by the wickedness of mankind, ungratefully towards God and cruelly towards sentient animals, abusing the gifts of Providence.

6. Still, the question will be proposed, Are we compelled to acquiesce in these conclusions? Might not the deposition of all the strata, their superposition, the imbedding in them of vegetable and animal remains, and their elevation so as to form our present continents and islands, all have taken place in the 1656 years from the fall to the deluge, completed by the powerful action of the diluvial waters?

This is *the question of questions* in relation to Geology. To discuss it fully would require a volume: yet, long as this paper has become, I must offer a few words. There are two classes of men, each of which gives its reply.

The first class consists of those who have heard the word *Geology*, but have been told (often by truly excellent men) that it is a dangerous study, that it impugns the truth of the Scripture records, and that it seeks to betray the unwary into infidelity. Of this class, some have read a little about geological subjects, have heard say a little more, and have eked out the rest by their own conjecture and imagination: and they answer this question *in the affirmative*.

The second class of persons comprises those who have spent thirty, forty, even fifty years in laborious investigation; many of them, having set out with the opinion of the former class; who have personally explored all the most important districts in the British isles, in France, in the Alpine countries, in Germany, and in Eastern and Northern Europe; also, in Asia, North and South America, and many parts of Africa and Australasia; who have endured herculean toils in the field of personal labour; expending large sums of money in their travels for this very object; who have come to geological investigations well prepared by mathematical and chemical science; who have pursued those investigations with untiring perseverance, and with the severest jealousy against precipitate conclusions: and