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Referred to at page 188.

UPON DR. YOUNG'S SCRIPTURAL GEOLOGY.

IN perusing this book, I have been not a little grieved at the sight which it presents of a pious and amiable man, struggling to give credit and currency to opinions which, to my full conviction, cannot be supported by evidence; but the advocacy of which is likely to mislead some, and to confirm the skeptical prejudices of others. It appears a duty to offer a few observations; but to go over the whole ground which he has opened, would require a treatise of considerable length. Erroneous statements and fallacious arguments can seldom be duly examined and refuted satisfactorily, without much expenditure of time and labour. I shall select what appear the principal parts of the argument.

A layer of oyster-shells, with the valves separated, and exhibiting other marks of water transport, is found in the Whitby lias, extending for many miles along the coast, and ten or twelve into the interior; and Dr. Y. lays this instance as a principal foundation for the inference of a diluvial origin to shelly beds generally; and he extends his conclusion to vertebrated animals. (p. 15.) Yet he says not a word upon a fact, of which he seems to have had a glimpse a dozen years ago,* that beds of a very peculiar and interesting bivalve, which all confess to be a stranger to the present condition of the seas, *Gryphaea incurva*, presenting the clearest evidence that the shells had never been drifted, and that the countless individuals lie, as family groups, in their native seats;—and that these beds may be traced, in the same geological position, from Whitby northward to the mouth of the Tees, and southward to the lias of Dorsetshire, and further appearing on the western coasts of Scotland, and again extensively in Germany and in France. If the worthy author could make so much of his seam of disparted oyster-shells, washed over a small piece of land, what ought he not to have concluded from the case of the opposite character, and covering an area a thousand times more extensive?

In like manner, because it is probable that some, or let us say even a large proportion, of the coal-beds, and their sandy and shaly ac-

* Geol. Survey of the Yorkshire Coast, p. 212. After briefly describing the species, Dr. Y. says, "Numbers are often found clustering together. This I call a *glimpse* of the truth. It deserved to have been followed out."