

the personal salvation of men. Indeed, so enlightened at this day is the popular mind in matters of science, that a large class of intelligent men will not listen to the claims of Christianity till they are satisfied it does not conflict with science. It is gratifying to find our young brethren, as they issue yearly from our theological institutions, so well qualified, by their enlarged and accurate knowledge both of science and theology, to engage successfully in this noble work. We bid them God speed in it; and so does the voice of history. For it tells them that the issue of every assault upon religion, with weapons drawn from science, has been to bring revelation and philosophy into closer agreement; and hence may we confidently anticipate ultimate and entire harmony. It is gratifying, also, to remember, amid all the conflicts of opinion on earth, that all truth originally sprang from the same pure source—the infinite mind. But as it enters this world, its rays are separated, colored, and distorted, by the media through which they pass; by human ignorance, prejudice, pride, and passion. It is the noble work committed to divines and philosophers, so to prepare and adjust the rectifying glasses of reason and revelation, that they shall collect and rearrange these scattered rays into a pure and uncolored beam, that shall spread the light of heaven over the darkness of earth. O, as I look down the vista of years, the sweet vision rises before me. The storm of conflicting opinions has passed by, and I hear only the distant, dying thunder, while the spent lightning plays harmlessly around the horizon. The sun of truth looks forth in glory behind the retiring cloud, on whose face it has painted a bow of harmonious colors—a sign of peace to the world, as its evening comes on, and a pledge of the cloudless and immortal day that is to succeed.