

the Divine creative acts. It is no error, if a man chooses to understand the six days of creation as literal days ; nor any error for the geologist to make them symbolize vast periods.

11. *The biblical account of creation may be regarded as a succession of pictures with existing nature on the foreground.* Ever since this, the pictorial method, was suggested by Dr. Knapp, in 1789, it has been a favorite mode of representation among authors ; the most brilliant exhibition of which was by Hugh Miller. But three errors have generally pervaded these representations. The first is, that the six pictures in Genesis embrace every geological change the earth has undergone ; secondly, that they are given in true chronological order ; and thirdly, that in the life pictures the plants and animals now found fossil, not the existing species, occupy the foreground. Inextricable confusion and discrepancy have resulted from the mixture of such elements. But only admit that the sacred writer intended to give only certain prominent scenes in creation (its most important memorabilia), and not always in true chronological order, and that existing animals and plants were the models before him, the fossil species coming in on the background only by implication, and all the pictures become luminous, beautiful, and harmonious.

12. *By such a mode of description the sacred writer was not bound to give, and indeed could not give, always the true chronological order of creation.* To make this evident we subjoin in parallel columns the principal events as they are revealed by the sacred penman and by geology.

The right hand column gives as fair a view as we can of the order of creation as developed by geology ; the names of the several classes being given when they first appear, and their greatest development by small capitals. The left hand column gives the principal results of the six days' work according to Scripture ; and where there seems to be no doubt of parallelism, they are placed opposite to events in the geological record. An examination of this table leads to several important conclusions.

1. We learn that some events found in one column do not occur in the other. The igneous fluidity of the globe is one of the best established conclusions of geology ; but it is not named in the Bible. The introduction of numerous groups of animals and plants at different periods is another settled fact in geology ; but