

15. *The Bible teaches that the earth will be, and geology that it may be, destroyed by fire and its surface renovated.* The Bible declares that the earth will be burnt up and its elements melted, which would reduce it to a molten globe. Geology shows that the globe contains all the elements necessary to bring about such a result. At the rate the internal heat increases, melted matter would be reached in less than 100 miles. How vast the amount of melted matter below, on that supposition, Fig. 125 will show. It is clear that if from any cause, natural or supernatural, such a crust in one part should be broken through and sink into the molten ocean below, all the rest might founder and disappear, and a melted globe alone remain. Then would begin anew the formation of another crust, on which another economy of life might be established, and this might be the new heaven and new earth described in the Scriptures as the future residence of man glorified.

Conclusions.

First, in order to show that there is no discrepancy between revelation and geology, we can take any one of three positions, each of which is sufficient. We may show that Moses does not fix the time of the material creation; or, secondly, that his account admits an indefinite period between the beginning and the first day; or, thirdly, that the days stand symbolically for long periods, and that on the plan of description adopted by the sacred writer he could not give, in all cases, the chronological order of creation. Either of these positions, in the view of any unprejudiced mind, completely vindicates the Mosaic account from any collision with geology.

Secondly, geology furnishes very important illustrations of the Mosaic account, and corroborates several truths of revelation.

Thirdly, still more remarkably does geology illustrate the principles of natural religion, and add to its creed several doctrines generally regarded as exclusively revealed.

Hence it is high time for believers in revelation to cease fearing injury to its claims or doctrines from geology, and to be thankful to Providence for providing in this science so powerful an auxiliary of religion, both natural and revealed.