

*rational* existence ; but, judged by the common sense of mankind, it would be an eminently irrational existence that would deny the reality of existence of any other kind,—that would recognise the *bona fide* being of an Edinburgh professor, but deny, in an argument four hundred pages long, that the University in which he lectured had any being whatever. And if, while such a teacher of moral philosophy, seated in its logic chair mayhap, was lecturing in one room on the general nonentity of things, there was a professor of natural science demonstrating in another, on evidence which no ingenious mind could resist, that during immensely protracted periods this old earth of ours had moved round the sun in a state so nearly approximating to the incandescent, that its diurnal motion propelled outwards its matter at the meridian, so that its equatorial diameter still exceeds its polar one, in consequence, by about twenty-six miles,—that for periods more than equally protracted, when it became a home of sentient existence, its highest creatures were in succession but trilobites, fishes, reptiles, birds, and mammals,—and that not until comparatively of yesterday did its rational existence come into being,—we could not regard such neighbourhood as other than formidable to the logician to whom this brief latter day would be the only one recognised as a reality. It would be such a neighbourhood as that of a disciple of Newton busied in weighing and measuring the planets, or calculating the return of a comet on the parallax of a fixed star, to an old sophist engaged in showing his lads, on what he deemed excellent grounds, that if a tortoise which crept a hundred yards in an hour had got the start by a few furrows' breadth of Achilles, who ran a mile in five minutes, the fleet warrior might be engaged for ever and ever in vain attempts to come up with it.

One of two things would of necessity occur in a state of matters so little desirable : either the pupils of the logician