

supported by geological facts ; since it appears that the most ancient marine animals occur in the same division of the lowest transition strata with the earliest remains of vegetables ; so that the evidence of organic remains, as far as it goes, shows the origin of plants and animals to have been contemporaneous : if any creation of vegetables preceded that of animals, no evidence of such an event has yet been discovered by the researches of geology. Still there is, I believe, no sound critical, or theological objection, to the interpretation of the word "day," as meaning a long period ; but there will be no necessity for such extension, in order to reconcile the text of Genesis with physical appearances, if it can be shown that the time indicated by the phenomena of Geology* may be found in the undefined interval, following the announcement of the first verse.

In my inaugural lecture, published at Oxford, 1820, pp. 31, 32, I have stated my opinion in

* A very interesting treatise on the Consistency of Geology with Sacred History has recently been published at Newhaven, 1833, by Professor Silliman, as a supplement to an American edition of Bakewell's Geology, 1833. The author contends that the period alluded to in the first verse of Genesis, "In the beginning," is not necessarily connected with the first day, and that it may be regarded as standing by itself, and admitting of any extension backward in time which the facts may seem to require.

He is further disposed to consider the six days of creation as periods of time of indefinite length, and that the word "day" is not of necessity limited to twenty-four hours.