

of a nation's culture, we may expect that as our population increases and the influences of our Schools and Universities are more generally diffused, we shall attain to a respectable standing in the province of "*Belles Lettres*," The advent of "*Archæia*" indicates a decided step in literary progress. Here is a work not on any local question for which, irrespective of its merits, a circle of indulgent readers may be secured, but one embracing fields of investigation of universal interest and challenging the attention of both religion and science. We congratulate ourselves that a colonial author has been found capable of grasping with a firm hand questions at once profound and intricate and of treating them in their multifarious bearings with clearness and force. Whatever opinions may be entertained of the speculations which this volume contain, there will, we are persuaded, be but one opinion as to the thoroughness with which its topics have been discussed, the patient labour which has been bestowed on every section, the eloquence with which many of its truths are stated, and the wide and accurate knowledge of contemporary science which it manifests. Our author has not given crude and ill-digested speculations to the world, or claimed the attention of his fellows to that which he himself has not completely mastered or regarding which he has not something new and important to say. The reader may take up this book with confidence that he will find in it truths of vital importance to Christianity, together with the latest and highest inductions of science in its bearings on religious faith, detailed in well conceived and carefully expressed terms.

The preface informs us that "this work is not intended as a treatise on elementary Geology with Theological applications nor as an attempt to establish a scheme of reconciliation between Geology and the Bible. It is the result of a series of exegetical studies of the first chapter of Genesis in connection with the numerous incidental references to nature and creation in other parts of the Holy Scriptures." Undertaken primarily for the author's private information these studies "are now published as affording the best answer which he can give to the numerous questions on this subject addressed to him in his capacity as a teacher of Geology."

From this it will be seen that the book does not embrace all the references in Scripture to important physical phenomena. The field of view is, as we think, advantageously limited and confines attention to a particular circle of things and events which, if