

record proves the disinterestedness and impartiality of the writers.

The destruction of the Egyptians, Canaanites, &c., are historical facts, recorded to show the perfection of the divine government. They were chastisements, and were no more inconsistent with the attribute of *mercy* than are pestilence and famine.

The apparent *indelicacies* of the Bible disappear when we consider the change in the use of language. Words which we consider immodest were not so formerly.

Thus we find the Scriptures have their difficulties. But these are by no means peculiar to them; all ancient writings are full of them.

These difficulties are generally in proportion to the antiquity of the writing; as the customs, manners, and language of mankind are constantly changing.

A little skill in the original language of the Scriptures, and in the times, occasions, and scope of the several books, as well as the customs of those countries which were the scenes of the transactions recorded will generally remove all difficulties.

*Historical circumstances* are an important help to the correct understanding of the sacred

What of the destruction of the Egyptians, &c.? What is said of apparent indelicacies? Have the Scriptures any difficulties? Are these peculiar to the Scriptures? To what are these difficulties proportioned? What is calculated to remove them? What is meant by historical circumstances?