

THE FIDELITY OF THE BIBLE.

CHAPTER I.

COLENZO'S PREFACE.

In his preface Colenso insinuates many and grievous charges against the morality and scientific accuracy of the Pentateuch, together with other truths which he thinks proper to attack only with a sneer—as if that alone would make us ashamed of them, and disown them for ever. He says that a native of Natal, when helping him to translate the story of the deluge, asked, "Is all that true? Do you really believe that all this happened thus,—that all the beasts and birds, and creeping things upon the earth, large and small from hot countries and cold, came thus by pairs, and entered the ark with Noah? And did Noah provide food for them all—for the beasts of prey as well as the rest?" My heart answered in the words of the prophet: "Shall a man speak lies in the name of the Lord? I dared not do so."

It would be wasting time to answer such an insinuation as this. Surely, any one who believes in God at all, will not doubt that He who made, can easily collect his creatures by pairs, or any other way at will. Nor need the Bishop have any fears about the capacity of the Ark, which, according to the best computation, could contain a pair of every *genera* of living creatures, with food for them, and twenty thousand men besides.

The Bishop thinks the account of the miracle, (Joshua, x. 13)—of the sun standing still, and the moon staying—hard to understand, and harder to believe. He observes, that if it were accomplished by the stopping of the earth's diurnal motion, then "A man's feet would be arrested while his body would be moving at the rate (on the equator), of one thousand miles an hour; so that every human being and animal would be dashed to pieces in a moment," &c. How ridiculous and childish this reasoning! Whether is it easier to say to the whole mass of the earth, stop; or to say the same word to the individuals, and little particles on its surface? Surely, if we admit that God's power can stop the whole earth in its motion, how easy it would be to keep the little things