

Dr. He proceeds next with a long and hard shot at the clerical order in the following words :—

“ We shall only lament that so many pious and learned interpreters of Scripture have been too little acquainted with nature to appreciate the natural history of the book of God, or adequately to illustrate it to those who depend on their teaching.”

He then gives and sanctions the following insulting remarks of a writer named Harvey :—

“ These are not days in which persons who ought to be our guides in matters of doctrine, can afford to be behind the rest of the world in knowledge; nor can they safely sneer at the knowledge which puffeth up, until, like the apostle, they have sounded its depths and proved its shallowness.”

The Dr. then gives his own and final shot as follows :—

“ It is truly much to be desired, that divines and commentators, instead of trying to distort the representations of nature in the Bible, unto the supposed requirements of a barbarous age, or of setting aside modern discoveries, as if they could have no connection with Scripture truth, would study natural subjects and laws sufficiently to bring themselves in this respect to the level of the Hebrew writers.”

What ignorance is here displayed as to the duties and teachings of ministers of religion ! Would the Dr. have them employed in reading books and running about from place to place to learn about *faunas* and *floras*, and the natures and habits of the vast varieties of beasts, birds, fishes, and reptiles; and the orders and classes to which they respectively belong; and the differences in their skulls and bones, muscles and ligaments, and the disagreements among natural scientists concerning them, and who is right and who is wrong on these subjects; and also about the various stratas of earth, stone, and other substances beneath the surface; and the discoveries of the impressions of vegetables, plants, beasts, &c., &c ? Discourses of ministers on such subjects might suit the Dr. and his class while here below, but they will not answer for them on the other side of either the Jorden or the Styx. Congregations of christians and common sense people, would soon rid themselves of a minister who would annoy them with any such alien and contemptible teachings. Ministers of religion know that the people they address are by nature, as Scripture declares, “ children of wrath ;” “ dead in trespass and sins ;” and that before they or their works can be acceptable to God, they must be “ born again” of His Spirit, be made “ new creatures,” holy in heart and life and thus prepared