

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT.

SCIENCE AND RELIGION—MR. MIVART AND EVOLUTION—BLACK WALNUT AND BIRCH
—APPLICATION OF ELECTRICITY

In the so-called conflict between Science and Religion, many people try to make us believe that all the hard and unpleasant things are uttered by the Scientists, the defenders of Religion standing meekly on the defensive. It is a matter of fact, however much to be regretted, that the religious press maintains a hostile attitude to those scientific workers, whose views it regards as not quite orthodox. We admit that Scientists of no very decided religious views frequently look with something of contempt on the defenders of religion. Nor can we wonder at this, for occasionally the votaries of religion make assertions, and pretend to carry on arguments, in a manner that shows them to be ignorant of the commonest facts of Science. Here is a case in point. Sir John Lubbock, as President of the British Association, speaking of the character of the interior of the earth, said that "The whole theory of igneous agencies, which is little less than the whole foundation of theoretic geology, must be reconstructed on the basis of a solid earth." Because of this utterance, the *New York Observer* is in great glee, imagines it has a grand opportunity for striking the Scientists a stunning blow, and makes the attempt. It says: "One's indignation exceeds his surprise when he reads such an ignominious confession by men of the highest standing in the Scientific world. After long years of fierce contention, that the Mosaic account of the earth's creation is inconsistent with the determined, settled, immutable facts of geology, we are now coolly informed by the great teachers of science that the whole foundations must be reconstructed." It will be observed Sir John Lubbock yields nothing in the matter of facts; it is theory of which he is speaking, hence the *Observer's* exultation is vain. Again, we read: "The admission that the British and American Scientific Associations do not yet know whether the earth is a solid body, or filled with fire and water, and that the whole foundation of the science of geology is to be torn up and rebuilt, indicates the most stupendous failure of modern times." Verily the wisdom of this sentence is great. The *Observer* in one sentence quotes Sir John Lubbock as saying that the earth is now thought to be a solid, and in the next takes upon itself to say that Scientists do not yet know whether the earth is a solid body. Besides, Sir John Lubbock never meant that mere facts of Geology were no longer to be regarded as facts. He simply says that the theory with reference to these facts, has to be rebuilt. Such articles as the one in question do religion more harm than good, and Christian men will find it to their advantage to leave Religion to careful Scientific works instead of entrusting its defence to such illogical and misrepresenting defenders. This may be seen by comparing with the *Observer's* misrepresentations the publicly proclaimed views of that eminent naturalist, Milne-Edwards. He believes that the Bible contains many anticipations of Scientific discovery. From the fact that the Jews were forbidden to eat swine's flesh, he sees an anticipation of the discovery that the hog is in many cases the host of parasites injurious to man.