

constantly walking over the graves of an immense population, and pained with a sense of utter darkness, as to every thing connected with them, except that they bequeathed to posterity those existing and confounding traces of their existence; so precisely should we be situated, with regard to all the human race, and all the mightiest changes in the surface of the globe, were we, as Plutarch was, destitute of all that history for which we are exclusively indebted to the Old Testament Scriptures. We should have the *tumuli* which, from the days of Homer to the present, have been seen on the plains of Troy; the frightful heaps of desolation on the foundations of Babel; the ruined tombs, temples and pyramids of ancient Egypt, sculptured with characters, which curiosity has decyphered, only to be disappointed; the gigantic remains of distant antiquity in India, as silent and gloomy as the quarried temple of Elephanta; to such as these the geologists might add their theories of mighty convulsions in nature, and immense periods of time; and in the midst of all, the several traditions of the nations might be heard speaking with a confusion of tongues which would do credit to an ancient emigration from Babel, each needing an interpreter nearly as much as the secrets it pretends to unveil; so that were we to attempt, from such sources, an account of the progress of the human family during the vast period we have mentioned, what better could we do, than imitate the geographer, and write *terra incognita* over the whole. The curious hieroglyphic map connected with this work, intended doubtless for a history of a numerous people, great movements, long periods, divers changes, wars, afflictions, successes; intended, moreover, to teach something of the geography, natural history, and vegetable productions, of the countries in which they occurred, but so curiously blind, may be taken as no inappropriate illustration of the plainest traces we could discover under such circumstances, of all that transpired from the creation of man, through more than thirty centuries of his posterity. Yes, the whole reason of the wide difference, between our present chart of the history of man, during all that period, and the chart contained in this volume, is founded in the knowledge for which we are indebted alone to the Bible.

But exceedingly insignificant as are all resources for the earliest history of the world *independently* of the Bible, they may be of great consequence *in connection* with the Bible. They may add no facts to what it contains; but they may contradict or confirm what it contains. A single line of inscription upon a Theban tomb; a bone dug up from the depths of the earth; a stratum of rock, or rubbish, discovered in the interior of a mountain, may add very little to our knowledge of facts, illustrating the history of the globe; but it will become of great importance, if it conflict, or harmonize, with any statements which Moses, professing to write under divine inspiration has recorded. One discovery of the Antiquarian, or the geologist, perfectly authenticated, accurately interpreted, certainly speaking the truth, and certainly contradictory to the Mosaic record; what an evidence against his inspiration! Then how singularly has the Bible exposed itself to attack; what an immense frontier has it had to defend; what a chain of posts in the wilderness to protect. Relating minutely the most important events, from the creation of the world, for several thousand years; events, such as tradition, and inscriptions, and monuments, and strata of the earth, if they speak of any thing, can hardly avoid recording, in some shape or other; thus, coming into contact with all the researches of literature and science at innumerable points, and inviting investigation; challenging attack along the whole line of its details; what book