

There are various modes in which the Scriptures are read, and for various purposes. 1. There are some who read, like children, merely for the sake of the story, for the interesting narrative, for the remarkable and astonishing things related in them, and who will naturally be gratified in proportion as they find something to excite their wonder, or to interest their hopes and fears respecting the heroes of the various narratives. Thus the story of Joseph and his brethren, the history of David, the passage through the Red Sea, and the Jewish wars, are the especial favorites with readers of this class. They take the literal sense of every passage, and are startled at nothing that is wonderful in them ; they regard not the geography nor the chronology, the style of the writers nor yet their agreement or disagreement with each other ; and naturally they find no difficulties. All is clear and easy to them !

2. There is another class, the opposite to the above, and a much smaller one, who care little for the Bible as a collection of Stories and Biographies any further than they can make out from them a clear and consistent history, and find out the actual facts which in each case are represented ; who it is that relates them, and when and where the authors lived ; how far they were correct in all they state, and where they unintentionally err from the popular philosophy of the age, and where from the strength of their own imaginations. These readers are desirous of ascertaining not only the outward dress, the manners and the customs of the day, their rites and sacrifices, but also the views which then prevailed regarding the outward universe, concerning the creation of the world, the nature of the heavens and the earth, of the sun, moon and stars ;