

"Now to treat plainly, this account of the first or early condition of our earth, and its revolutions and changes; and the other particulars concerning it, neither more nor less can properly be said of it, at the bar of reason and ordinary intelligences, than that it is one of the most wild and extravagantly absurd schemes, or fancies, which a fertile imagination is capable of producing. It would find an appropriate place in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, or in some other heathen Mythology. Persons of ordinary sense and intelligence will at once see and ridicule its folly and absurdity: and some may even be inclined to think that the author of it, is rather more in danger of becoming an inmate of a Lunatic Asylum, than qualified to be a teacher of sound and useful science."

Chapter 6 has the title,—“Light, and Creative Days.”

The Dr. has filled eight pages, very uselessly, in giving his own conjectures, and those of another writer, as to how the light was produced, and concludes,—“That so long as the material of the earth constitutes a part of the great vaporous mass, it would be encompassed with its diffused light.”

The truly learned Dr. Adam Clarke, in his commentary, has given the following, with other information on the subject:—“Many have asked, ‘How could the light be produced on the *first day*, and the *sun*, the fountain of it, not created till the fourth day.’ With the various and often unphilosophical answers which have been given to the question, I will not meddle, but shall observe, that the original word signifies, not only *light* but *fire*; see Isa. 31. 9; Ezek. 5, 2. It is used for the *electric fluid*, or *lightning*. Job 37, 3. And it is worthy of remark, that it is used in Isai. 44, 16 for the *heat* derived from the *fire*. I therefore conclude, that as God has diffused the matter of *caloric*, or *latent heat*, through every part of nature without which there could be neither vegetation nor animal life that it is *caloric* or *latent heat*, which is principally intended by the original word.”

The Dr., in the remaining 34 pages of the chapter, treats of the Creative days, and, as will be seen by the extracts given, insists that they mean vast periods of time, each of them many millions of years. Before remarking on that subject, I must notice and refute some erroneous statements and remarks he has made respecting certain changes of words in that chapter 1st of Genesis. He says:—