

PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IN my endeavours to reconcile the present Geological appearances of our Earth, with the Mosaic account of Creation, the only certain means that appeared to me, were, the adoption of that construction of the first verse of Genesis, which I have stated in a part of this work, and it will be seen by an extract from the *Quarterly Review* of April last, inserted below, that this construction has been confirmed and sanctioned by the writings of Professor Buckland, Doctors Pusey and Chalmers, Bishop Gleig, and other eminent Divines. These authorities have removed the diffidence I had long felt to publish a different construction from what has hitherto prevailed.

The original manuscript of this work was composed between the years 1819 and 1825. The writings of the above reverend gentlemen were published, I believe, several years afterwards, and none of them had been perused by me until a few days since, when I met with the *Review of the Bridge-water Treatise of Dr. Buckland*.

In the summer of 1829, I presented a prospectus of the work to Archdeacon Mountain, and to the Bishop of Quebec. The former kindly complimented me on it, and the latter recommended my publishing it in London, for which I was soon to embark. I arrived there in October of same year, and presented the prospectus to the Lord Bishop of London, from whom I received a note, by which he was pleased to commend the design of the work. I subsequently presented the prospectus to several of the principal Booksellers, who, on learning that the size of the work would be that of a pamphlet, informed me that the cost of advertising was so great that no pamphlet would pay it; and my circumstances preventing me from incurring that expense, I gave up the intention of publishing.