

## THE THEOLOGY OF AN ATOM.\*

BY THE REV. GEO. GRUNDY.

PROFESSOR TYNDALL, in a lecture delivered at Free Trade Hall, Manchester, in 1874, on Crystalline and Molecular Forces, disclaimed, though with a bad grace, the atheism which had been attributed to him. His disclaimer was loudly cheered—the cheering being “again and again renewed,” showing that the audience had no sympathy with an atheistic scientism; and yet he proceeded, in effect, to retract his retraction, casting a slur, in passing, upon “conventional theology,” as if to avenge himself for the concession he had been constrained to make. The very tone of his disclaimer showed that he would willingly, if it had been possible, have proved that the universe was independent of a Creator; and in speaking of the molecular power giving us the movement of the sap in trees, and in ourselves the warmth of the body and the circulation of the blood, and all that thereon depends, he says, “We are here upon the edge of a battle-field which I do not intend to enter to-night, from which, indeed, I have just escaped bespattered and begrimed, but without much loss of heart or hope.”

If the Professor had really accepted the Bible doctrine of a Creator and a creation, assuredly his tone would have been altogether different. While, however, we thankfully accept from men of science the brilliant results of their investigations, we are not bound to accept their hypotheses, but claim the liberty to interpret the facts, which, for this purpose, are quite as much the property and in the province of the theologian as of the man of mere science; and we think we can show that the atom, instead of being a witness for atheism, notwithstanding Lucretius and his modern expositors, in a very striking manner testifies to an All-wise and Almighty Creator.

\* We have pleasure in submitting this valuable article, prepared for our pages by an honoured minister of the New Connexion Church in England, whose admirable volume, entitled “Ministerial Recreations,” was reviewed in this magazine a year ago.—ED.