

an essential rule of sound interpretation to infer the meaning of an author from a condensed sentence, introduced incidentally, instead of deriving it from his more direct, connected, and ample statements on the same subject.\* As an example of the truth of the foregoing remark we may instance the sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." Now, it would surely not be sound interpretation to infer, that because this commandment is worded in the same manner as the eighth commandment, "Thou shalt not steal," therefore the murderer ought not to be more severely punished than he who steals? The sixth commandment is a condensed sentence of Genesis ix., 5, 6, by which it must be interpreted.

I hope enough has been said to show that there is nothing in the Mosaic account to warrant the supposition that the planetary system was actually created on the fourth day, but that, on the contrary, everything tends to prove that the luminaries had their existence before the Mosaic account commences.

V. 20, "And God said, Let the waters swarm with moving creatures, with living beings." The replenishing the waters and the air with their inhabitants constituted the creative work of the fourth day. The Hebrew verb שרץ (*sharats*) denotes to swarm, to multiply abundantly, and is applied to all kinds of living creatures, whether inhabiting the waters or dry land, which are remarkable for their rapid increase. It is only in a few instances used by the sacred writer in reference to the human species, where he wishes to express a great increase. Thus, for example, Genesis ix., 7, God blessing Noah and his sons. So also Exod. i., 7, where it is very appropriately used in reference to the extraordinary in-

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\* Pre-Adamite Earth, p. 278.