

# The Parish School Advocate, AND FAMILY INSTRUCTOR: FOR NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

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## REVIEW.

### TESTIMONY OF THE ROCKS. HUGH MILLER.

It is impossible in a passing notice of so great a man as was the late Hugh Miller, and so great a work as the Testimony of the Rocks has proved to be, to afford our readers even a faint idea of either the man or his works.

For the present, however, let it suffice to quote a few brief paragraphs from this work, bearing on the two Theologies, natural and revealed, as viewed through the medium of Geology.

After successfully combatting and disposing of the different views held by writers, as to the reconciliation of "the two records, Mosaic and Geologic," our author, in unison with Jameson, Cuvier, and Silliman, proves, we think, beyond dispute, that the days named in the first chapter of Genesis denote long periods of time. In exposition of this view we shall allow Mr Miller to speak at length:

"Premising, then, that I make no pretensions to even the slightest skill in philology, I remark further, that it has been held by

accomplished philologists, that the days of the Mosaic creation may be regarded, without doing violence to the genius of the Hebrew language, as successive periods of great extent. And certainly, in looking at my English Bible, I find that the portion of time spoken of in the first chapter of Genesis as six days, is spoken of in the second chapter as one day."

"Waiving, however, the question as a philological one, and simply holding with Cuvier, Parkinson, and Silliman, that each of the six days of the Mosaic narrative in the first chapter were what is assuredly meant by the *day* referred to in the second,—not natural days, but lengthened periods,—I find myself called on, as a geologist, to account for but three of the six. Of the period during which light was created,—of the period during which a firmament was made to separate the waters from the waters,—or of the period during which the two great lights of the earth, with the other heavenly bodies, became visible from the earth's surface,—we need expect to find no record in the rocks. Let me, however, pause for a moment, to remark the peculiar character of the language in which we are first introduced in the Mosaic narrative to the