

such competent authorities as Luther and his friends in Germany, by the Holy office in Rome, and by theologians everywhere. Here again, for one who was tortured, silenced or otherwise persecuted, hundreds and thousands were forced—through believing truth—to accept the dilemma forced on them, and to believe that the Scriptures were a collection of fables. It must needs be that offences come, but woe to that man by whom they come, said the Lord. How indifferent to this woe the zealous Churchman has been ! How often has Ecclesiastical authority forced men to be false to their convictions, to be silent when silence meant being false to truth, and to that moral and spiritual elevation of character which God longs to see in His children, and which Holy Scripture is the best instrument for producing in man !

In spite of all opposition, the evidence in favor of such scientific truths as we have referred to became so great as to be irresistible. They are now everywhere believed, except by men of the Brother Jasper type, who minister to congregations more able intellectually than themselves. The discovery was made that the Bible was never meant to teach astronomy, and great was the comfort to poor men who had been perilling their souls on the contrary belief. Alas ! that the discovery had not been made sooner, or that the simple deduction was not then drawn that the bible was not meant to teach any branch of science, or any truth that it was man's duty to find out by the exercise of his ordinary faculties ; that God's revelation of Himself was made to the spiritual nature and that, instead of maddening, depressing or numbing, it enlightened : and that the expenditure of miraculous energy was strictly governed by the law of Parsimony. For, soon another alarm was raised. This time Geology threatened to discredit Scripture. The bible taught, so at least it was assumed, that the earth was young, or that life on it and death too were of recent date, and there were fossils by the thousand in every quarter of the globe, giving the lie direct to the teaching. "What subterfuges were not used to get rid of their evidence. Think of a man seeing the fossilized skeleton of an animal split out of a quarry, his teeth worn down by mastication, and the remains of food still visible in his interior, and, in order to get rid of a piece of evidence contrary to the traditions he holds to, seriously maintaining that this skeleton never belonged to a living creature, but was created with just these appearances : a make-believe, a sham, a Barnum's-Mermaid contrivance to amuse its Creator, and impose upon His intelligent children !" Yet hundreds of pulpits did actually talk in