

meanings of words, for example, within reasonable limits are at once understood and accepted, but when it is demanded, in obedience to scientific necessity, that words which appear as literal as language can make them, should be received in a figurative or tropical sense, then it is that the christian consciousness revolts, and arms itself in defence of the foundations upon which it rests its faith—it will not admit a principle of interpretation in Genesis which is not equally applicable in the Gospels or Epistles.

So long as Geology, or science of any kind, demands, as a condition of its alliance to religion, that violence should be done to the plain and obvious meaning of the words of Scripture so long will science find that the common christian consciousness of the world will be ranged against its authority.

It is to be regretted, as our author more than once mentions, that scientific studies have been so much neglected by the great mass of religious teachers and biblical expositors. Still it must be said in defence that our best divines were fully up to the science of their own day. If judged of not by modern standards, but by the standard of their time they will be found by no means despicable in their knowledge of nature. With contemporary physicians whose department was physics, they will bear a favorable comparison as to their knowledge of Natural History and general science. We allow that the science of the present day has rather gone ahead of the great bulk of christian teachers and of most of our popular commentators. Literary and theological studies have in many cases altogether excluded the study of Natural Science. In the regard of some, time is wasted that a student might spend among the objects of nature. And there are good people even now, who think disparagingly of a minister who is known to cultivate for the enlargement of his mind a scientific acquaintance with the works of the Creator.

But this state of things is fast passing away. Divines of this generation are treading closely on the heels of the professed cultivators of science. It is no uncommon thing to find the title of Revd. attached to the name of distinguished authors in many departments of science. Men are rising up as teachers of religion who can bring to their professional studies all the collateral lights of modern science.

Natural Science is after all but modern. In the realms of thought it is yet but an infant of days and has only recently been brought out of the wilderness. Or to change the figure its diffused and