

the science of astronomy and geology, met with bitter opposition from theologians, in so far as these revelations seemed to conflict with the Bible. For a while the pupils thundered against such heresy. It is observable that they always *thunder* more than they *lighten* on most subjects. That thunder has now died away; it frightened nobody, it killed nobody. Discreet ministers have now come *at last* to the conclusion that they should have adopted *at first*, namely, that Moses never intended to give a scientific account of the origin of the earth, and the starry universe. And that after all both the deductions of science and the ancient record, when properly understood, may agree. He however, who can see this agreement, must have quicker eyes and sharper intellect than most people possess.

The *positive results* of the science of geology have been great. We have now some rational and consecutive history of the origin of the earth; and of the beings that live and move thereon; from the lowest to the highest, from the radiate to the man. Its revelations are most interesting and sublime. They ramify out and throw light on a thousand different studies, and enable us to understand, what without them would have been darkness and mystery. Geology and Chemistry are now sister sciences, destined to advance the civilization of the world, more than any other of the sciences. The one by its minuteness, and the other by its greatness, touch the opposite poles of the material universe. When we shall know all the laws that govern its composition, and all the laws that govern its position, then all the laws that govern matter will be known to us. That time however must be very far distant.

Such are a few of the happy results of a truthful scepticism, when combined with honesty of heart and strength of mind. It sometimes leads to what some