

But truth triumphed; bigotry and ignorance could not long prevail to the hiding from the world the harmonious walkings of stars and planets; and ever since, the philosophy which laid open the wonders of the universe, hath proved herself the handmaid of the revelation which divulged secrets far beyond her gaze. And thus we are persuaded shall it always be; science may scale new heights, and explore new depths; but she shall bring back nothing from her daring and successful excursions, which will not, when rightly understood, yield a fresh tribute of testimony to the Bible. Infidelity may watch her progress with eagerness, exulting in the thought that she is furnishing facts with which the christian system may be strongly assailed; but the champions of revelation may confidently attend her in every march, assured that she will find nothing which contradicts, if it do not actually confirm, the word which they know to be divine."*

In these sentiments, we entirely concur. Times will doubtless come, again and again, when, in consequence of imperfect investigations, hasty theories and rash conclusions, the calm surface of a settled belief in the unvaried accuracy of the inspired record, as to matters of fact, connected with science or the original circumstances of mankind, may in some minds, be troubled, and the progress of religion, founded upon such belief, be threatened with storm and wreck; but the Lord is in the ship, and in his time will rebuke the winds and waves, and the little faith of his people, and the light of truth shall shine out, as when "the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians, through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled their host, and took off their chariot wheels." The Bible asks nothing but matured, accurate investigations of all departments of knowledge connected with its statements, whether in the traditions of nations, the phenomena of the elements, or the registers of geology.

The Antiquities of America are an immense field for inquiry, hardly entered; abounding in promise of reward for the most devoted investigations. Let it be thoroughly explored for the truth's sake. The Scriptures have yet to gather a richer cabinet of illustrative and corroborating collections from the long buried and unknown depositories of American Antiquity.

In reference to the question, whether all the races of men have descended from one common stock, the Antiquities of this continent are specially interesting, and may prove of very great value. It is a question, indeed, forever settled by the researches of Bryant, Faber and Sir William Jones: "The dark Negro, the white European, and the swarthy Asiatic, being plainly traced to their respective ancestors in the family of Noah." But much confirmatory testimony may yet be obtained. The contingent of America to the host of evidence already in array is yet to take its entire place in the line. If the present volume shall only increase the ardor of investigation and the number of minds turning their energies upon the disinterment of the buried antiquarian treasures of this continent, it will do a good work and deserve the thanks of all lovers of truth.

*Melvill's Sermons.

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