

rewarded and favored by a seven day's rest being given him and "a renewal of life and happiness" hereafter.

I will now refer to several passages and parts of the book from which to discover, if possible, what the Dr. thinks is the real or proper duration of his æons or periods of creation. He says:—

"The record he (God) has given us does not receive its full significance nor attain its full harmony with the course of geological history unless we can understand each day of the creative week, as including a long succession of ages."

Observe reader, that with the Dr. the truth on the subject does not depend on what inspired Scripture says, but on "geological history;" yet he has admitted at the commencement of his book, that "scientific facts and principles are in their nature *uncertain*, and must *constantly change as knowledge advances*; and cannot solve for us the great practical problems of our *origin and destiny*." The Dr. proceeds thus:—

"We do not know the actual value of our geological ages in time; but it is probable that each great creative æon may have extended through millions of years." * * * Sir William Thompson has indeed indicated for the time since the earth's crust first began to form, a period of between one and two hundred millions of years; but Professor Guthrie Tait, on the other hand, argues that ten or fifteen millions of years are probably sufficient. * * On the whole, it is evident that only the most vague guesses can at present be based on the facts in our possession, though the whole time required has unquestionably been very great; the deposition of the series of stratified rocks, probably requiring at least the greater part of the minimum time allowed by Thompson."

Now, here, we may make a calculation, or estimate, as to the whole time which the Dr. seems to think would be requisite for the work of creation, or was employed in performing it. Suppose Thompson's *minimum* to be one hundred millions, of years, the Doctor's "greater part of it" would be, say, only Sixty millions, which will allow ten millions for each of the six æons or periods. This will entitle the Dr. to the credit of being the most moderate, or humble, of all his geologic and scientific brethren. I must request my readers, to bear in mind, all through the discussions and statements on this subject, that the objections to the Scripture narrative of the literal days of creation, urged by the Dr. and others, are founded on the various stratas of stone, and other solid substances, in depths of the earth; and