

and lays bare before our eyes the very secret of the Lord's doings. The loftiest poetic seer can do no more. Now, if in any real sense this is poetry, then it ought to be read as such, with all due allowance for the freedom of poetic expression. And thus we come back again to the point that the key to the solution of the scientific difficulties with the Bible is to be found in a revision of our mode of interpretation. When we put ourselves into the mental situation of the writer and make proper allowance for his literary methods the difficulties vanish and the conflict of science with theology ends.

Of course, in spite of all one may say, there will still be those who refuse to consent to such a procedure. They stoutly maintain that every Bible statement must be taken with strict literalness, and that to treat it in any other way is to put dishonor on its inspired authority. They will have it that the meaning which lies so obviously on the surface is the only meaning we are entitled to take, and that this must be held fast at all cost. If science comes to any conclusions which are inconsistent with this pragmatistical interpretation, then so much the worse for science. The only course open to the orthodox theologian is to denounce science and all scientists as enemies of the Word of God. To seek to reconcile them to each other by any revision of the mode of interpretation is to betray the cause of religion and they will have none of it.

Now, there is no need to call in question the perfect sincerity of such defenders of the good old way of thinking, nor the good intentions which animate them, however unwise or mistaken one may consider them. Happily, a man may get a great deal that is best for his soul out of the Bible without reconciling it with modern science, or adopting such a rational mode of interpreting it as will make him indifferent to apparent contradictions. But surely, those who so strenuously insist on these literal and superficial interpretations, have never come to appreciate what modern science is, or felt the pressure of the problems which it necessarily raises. One hardly knows whether to bid them be thankful or not for such an easy