

PREFATORY NOTE.

As the following reply to the *Christian Guardian* was refused insertion in that paper, it has been thought right in the interests of truth and free discussion, to publish it in this form. In order to maintain the entire fairness towards our Christian opponents, which we have always exercised, (but which has not always been accorded to us by them,) we here give the full text of the *Guardian's* criticism. A brief reply to the *Canada Christian Advocate* (which also refused any reply), is also appended. That the *Guardian* and *Advocate* should have simultaneously, (March 16th,) opened their batteries—noisy but not destructive—against my pamphlet, which has been in their hands some months, and both attack but one and the same position, viz: the argument against "Design in Nature," is, to say the least, a little curious. Whether this was the result of *design* or *chance*, of course no Materialist can tell! As both criticisms are directed against the same argument, the reply to the *Guardian* is, partially, also a reply to the *Advocate*. In a private reply also which I have received from a prominent theologian of this Province, the same point is selected as the centre of attack. It would, therefore, appear from this consensus of the enemy in their attack, that this one position—the argument against "Design in Nature"—is the only vulnerable one our opponents have been able to find in my pamphlet. Hence the necessity of fairly and squarely meeting this fundamental issue between us.

SELBY, APRIL, 1881.

A. P.