

though one would shrink from the impiety of bending the language of God's Book to any other than its obvious meaning, we cannot help fearing lest we might be unconsciously influenced by the floating opinions of our own day, and therefore turn the more anxiously to those who explained Holy Scripture before these theories existed."—*Note, p. 25.*

Thus all difficulty, arising from the immense antiquity of the Globe attested by Geology, is at once removed. The circumstances related in the succeeding verses must be understood as referring to those immediate changes by which the surface of the earth was prepared for the reception of man.—Just as the facts disclosed by astronomy, without detracting ought from the credit of the inspired historian, prove, that the sun, and moon, and planetary bodies must have existed previous to the 'fourth day,' on which he first mentions them as 'made,' or *appointed* to serve the office of 'signs and seasons, and days and years'; so Geology in no degree contradicts the real meaning of the text, by proclaiming the fact, that the air, the earth and the waters, were peopled by living creatures for innumerable ages before the epoch in the world's history—which the sacred historian alone contemplates."

Under the sanction of this confirmation of the construction I had put on the first verse of Genesis, in my original manuscript, formed between 1819 and 1825, (and which is now greatly enlarged by the addition of the notes containing an account of the late geological discoveries, and observations upon them) I now present this work to the public of Canada, and conclude this preface with the sublime description of Eternal Wisdom given us in the 8th chapter of Proverbs; which, I trust, will justly apply to the great additional light which the modern discoveries in pneumatic science have enabled me to confer on the Cosmogony of the Creation.

"The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.—v. 22.

"I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was."—v. 23. (Say before the combustion of the gases, as shown in this work.

"When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth; when *there were* no fountains abounding with water."—v. 24. (At the combustion of the Gases, as shown in this work.

"When he prepared the heavens I *was* there; when he set a compass upon the face of the depth."—v. 27. (After the combustion of the Gases, as shown in this work.

TORONTO, Nov. 22, 1836.

HENRY TAYLOR.

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