

I now come to the last paper delivered by Mr. BROOKE, on Language. In the commencement of his paper, the Rev. gentleman expressed his regret that the subject he had chosen was one which did not admit of any auxiliary interest by appeal to the senses, in the way of experiment and illustration. To this I must withhold my assent, for the whole of his most interesting paper seemed to me a most happy and pleasing illustration of the capabilities and powers of that gift, of whose origin and progress he was treating, which made us feel, that if we could not, like the Abyssinian traveller to whom he alluded, reach the small beginning of the mighty current, we could be well pleased to enjoy the beauties of the broader stream under so agreeable and able a pilot. The subject of this paper is one which has often engaged the attention of clever and ingenious writers, who have, from time to time, indulged in speculations on the origin of language very interesting and instructive in the detail of facts and coincidences which they have brought in support of their theories, but many of them not perhaps based on any very safe or satisfactory foundation. If we seek to account for the origin of language by the process of human reasoning, we must look for the data on which to found that reasoning in the ages before the flood. Now, the only record we have of those days is contained in the first six chapters of the book of Genesis; and they, I fear, will offer but scanty materials for forming a human theory on this subject, which can stand the test of human logic. It may be easy to conjecture how men first began to express their sensations and ideas in articulate sounds; but when we are asked for a satisfactory reason for such conjecture, we must conjecture a reason as much as a theory. The only fact we find on this subject in the Mosaic account is the very fact which is sought to be established, viz., the origin of language. We find in that account a being created by the will of the Almighty, who, without passing through the stages of childhood and youth, comes into existence—a man—endowed with the matured powers, bodily and mental, of complete manhood. We find this being, so created, using language. This was inferred by Mr. BROOKE, from the circumstance, that God brought every beast of the field and every fowl of the air unto Adam to see what he would call them, and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. There is much in