

After a long and mature consideration, I conceived that the first verse of Genesis, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," will not only warrant the above conclusion; but, perhaps, also a like formation of all the planets and suns of other systems, by the highly natural causes and effects of those laws, which the latest discoveries of geology and pneumatic chemistry have found to exist.

I further considered, that if the Scriptural account of creation could thus be reconciled to those discoveries; if the geology of the whole earth could thus be brought in proof of the reality and necessary existence of those waters; the doubts of the unbeliever might yield to it, and the authority of Scripture acquire new force.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Now, the term "beginning" points to *no specific point of time*; and I have therefore conceived it may have been *ages* previous to the time of the separation of the earth from the waters, as mentioned in the ensuing verses; and that, during *these ages*, the earth was gradually formed in these waters. By this explanation, we shall be able to account for any length of time which the formation of the globe may have required.

Doctor Chalmers, in his Natural Theology, published in 1836, page 250, says, "We shall advert once more to the Mosaic account of the creation, more especially as the reconciliation of this history with the indefinite antiquity of the globe, seems not impossible, and that, without the infliction of any violence on the literalities of the record."—He then narrates the two first verses of 1st of