

Several pages which seemed, when fairly translated, to teach error, or to be poetical flights, have since been proved to be statements of literal facts. The Bible has been routed from many a position it never held, discovered to be impregnably intrenched, after its rout had been heralded. This will repeatedly appear in illustrating the second proposition. That the Bible could avoid error proclaims that God was in all its writing. How much more that it could always be in advance of science and discovery. Let us see if this second proposition is capable of proof. The Bible has asserted from the first, that creation of matter preceded arrangement. It was chaos, void, without form, darkness. Arrangement was a subsequent matter. The world was not created in the form it was to have. It was to be moulded, shaped, stratified, mountained, and valleyed, subsequently. All of which science utters ages afterwards. The Bible has been sneered at a thousand years, for saying that light existed before the sun was outlined and limited. But now, men are praised for asserting the same thing. Pæans are sung to La Place, that belong to God, and which are sung to God by angels, and all others who know that the Bible is older science than the *Mechanique Celeste*. It is a recently elucidated idea of science that the strata of the earth were formed by the action of water, and that the mountains were once under the ocean. It is an idea long familiar to Bible readers. "Thou coverest the earth with the deep as with a garment. The waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of Thy thunder they hasted away. The mountains ascended, the valleys descended unto the place Thou has founded for them." The whole volume of geology in one paragraph! Volumes of demonstrations of the impossibility of the Deluge might have been saved if men had been willing to read the explanations of God, by Peter: "For of this they are willingly ignorant that by the work of God there were heavens of old, and land framed out of water and by means of water, whereby the world that then was, being overflowed by water perished;"—a geological subsistence—"but the heavens that now are and the land"—the present geological upheaval—"by his word are kept for fire, etc.," every difficulty vanishes. It is a single sentence of geologic history, foretold and arranged by God for a specific time and purpose, and no more difficult than upheavals and subsidences that have occurred in our day. Ages on ages man's wisdom held the earth to be flat. Meanwhile God was saying, century after century, of Himself, "He sitteth upon the sphere of the earth." [Gesenius.] Men racked their feeble wits for expedients to uphold the earth, and the best way they could devise