

In the recapitulatory view of the creation in the beginning of the 2d chapter of Genesis,—allusion is made to the whole work in the expression “*in the day* that the Lord God made the heavens and the earth.”

4. If the Canons of criticism require that one sense of the word day should be adopted and preserved throughout the whole account, how are we to understand this verse? “These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the heavens and the earth.” Which of the three senses shall we adopt? If the last, then the whole work was performed not in six days, but in one day—of twenty four hours, in the popular sense;—in a sufficient period of time, according to the geological view. The canons of criticism were made by man and may be erroneous, or at least, they may be erroneously applied; the world was made by God, and if the history in question were dictated by him, it cannot be inconsistent with the facts.\* Why then, should we not prefer that sense of the word used in the history itself, which is in harmony with the structure of the globe. It is said indeed, that the account in the 2d chapter of Genesis is a different one from that in the first. With this the geologist can have no concern; since he finds both adopted in a connected history, he receives them as one.

It is agreed on all hands, that the word here used for day, is that which in the Hebrew, usually signified a period of 24 hours and the addition of morning and evening is supposed to render it certain that this is the real sense and the only sense that is admissible, especially as this view is supported by the peculiar genius of the Hebrew language.

But, we would ask, is it unusual to preserve this allusion to morning and evening, when the word day is used for time; we speak for instance of the life of a man *as his day*, and in the same sense and in harmony with this rhetorical figure, we speak of the morning and the evening of life.

---

\* No opinion can be heretical but that which is not true. Truths can never war against each other. I affirm, therefore, that we have nothing to fear from the result of our inquiries, provided they be followed in the laborious but secure road of honest induction. In this way, we may rest assured, we shall never arrive at conclusions opposed to any truth, either physical or moral, from whatsoever source that truth may be derived; nay, rather that new discoveries will ever lend support and illustration to things which are already known, by giving us a larger insight into the universal harmonies of Nature.—*Professor Sedgwick's Address to the Geological Society, February 19, 1830.*