

same extreme variety of natural productions. Till that variety was occasioned on the globe, it was not the fitting place for intellectual man that it now is: for, surely among the other uses and correlations of the visible creation, this is one,—by its inexhaustible diversity and ever-growing newness, to interest with a perpetual charm the growing mind of a rational being, and lead him by a flowery path to the cultivation of the divine thing within him, which raises him above all that his senses make known; and thus to fit him for the highest contemplation of which he is capable, namely, the relation which he bears to the unseen AUTHOR of all this visible material world.

“ Thus, to the mind of a geologist, nature is one glorious book; one system of appointed and associated law, independent of time and exempt from change, but operating under conditions which vary with time and place. The past has prepared the present: the present explains the past and points to the future.”*

III. A prevalent, though not universal interpretation of the archaic narrative, is that the sun and all the other heavenly bodies were created on the fourth day after the creation of the earth. An obvious objection to this opinion is, that *light* is mentioned in the account of the first day; “ God said, Be light; and light was.” But to this, the common answer is, that light was created in a diffused state; and that, on the fourth day, it was condensed and collected into a centre, for the solar system of planets; that this centre is the sun, or within the sun; and that in some similar way the luminous property of the fixed stars was produced.

Those who adopt this hypothesis, either with or without the modification annexed to it, are perhaps not aware, that the spheroidal figure of the earth, its position in the planetary system, its rotation producing the nights and days which the Mosaic narrative expressly lays down in numerical succession, the existence of water, and that of an atmosphere, both definitely mentioned, and the crea-

* The Supplementary Note, contributed by Prof. John Phillips, to the Rev. Prof. Powell's *Connexion of Natural and Divine Truth*; p. 309.