

redemption is thus no afterthought, rendered necessary by the fall, but, on the contrary, part of a general scheme, for which provision had been made from the beginning; so that the Divine Man, through whom the work of restoration has been effected, was in reality, in reference to the purposes of the Eternal, what he is designated in the remarkable text, *the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*. Slain from the foundation of the world! Could the asserters of the stony science ask for language more express? By piecing the two records together, that revealed in Scripture and that revealed in the rocks, (records which, however widely geologists may mistake the one, or commentators misunderstand the other, have emanated from the same great Author,) we learn that in slow and solemn majesty has period succeeded period, each in succession, ushering in a higher and yet higher scene of existence; that fish, reptiles, mammiferous quadrupeds, have reigned in turn; that responsible man, 'made in the image of God,' and with dominion over all creatures, ultimately entered into a world ripened for his reception; but, further, that this passing scene, in which he forms the prominent figure, is not the final one in the long series, but merely the last of the *preliminary* scenes; and that that period to which the by-gone ages, incalculable in amount, with all their well-proportioned gradations of being, form the imposing vestibule, shall have perfection for its occupant and eternity for its duration. I know not how it may appear to others, but for my own part I cannot avoid thinking that there would be a lack of proportion in the series of being, were the period of perfect and glorified humanity abruptly connected, without the introduction of an intermediate creation of *responsible* imperfection with that of the dying, irresponsible brute. That scene of things in which God became man, and suffered, *seems*, as it no doubt is, a necessary link in the chain."

A single concluding thought forces itself upon my mind. It is this: How ingenious and persevering men are in deluding themselves on the subject of religion! Since the time of Christ, what countless devices have they framed to escape from the lofty truths and spiritual piety of his Gospel! Nor are they satisfied with this; for the Gospel has shed so much light upon the religion of nature, that even this is more than men-like; and, therefore, every science is ransacked for facts to