

we may now say that geology illustrates rather than opposes revelation.

A third false notion is, that the principles of geology are unsettled and constantly changing, and that in fact it is chiefly made up of vague and conflicting hypotheses. That there are in geology, as in other physical sciences, unsettled points and doubtful hypotheses, is admitted. But its leading principles are as well settled nearly as those of chemistry, astronomy, and physiology. Especially is it true that those principles which bear upon religion are rarely modified by new discoveries, but rather established more firmly.

Hence we see how false is the position some professed friends of religion take, who say that the time has not yet come to attempt a reconciliation of geology and religion, and therefore they will believe the latter on the principle of faith, because the Church does, and wait for further developments. Such a sort of belief, with philosophic minds, is usually little else but covert infidelity, and instead of honoring, it dishonors religion, by admitting that as yet it can not be defended against the attacks of science.

Hence, too, we see the error of maintaining, as some do, that geology ought not to be allowed to modify at all our views of the meaning of Scripture, or any of its truths. For astronomy, chemistry, and physiology, as well as civil history, have been allowed to make such modifications; why should a like power be denied to geology, if its leading principles are settled?

*Different stand-points from which to judge of the Religious Bearings of Geology.*

Three classes of men have written concerning the connection between geology and religion. The first are professed believers in revelation; but they do not suppose the Mosaic record to be inspired and infallible as to history or science; and hence they are not surprised to find discrepancies and absurdities in what they regard as a myth or fable of the creation got up by Moses to accomplish some important purpose, but not inspired.

The second class are firm believers in the Bible, but not in geology, which they consider so unreliable that it ought not to be taken into account at all in the interpretation of Scripture; nay, they consider the science, as well as its teachers as really hostile