

do injustice to any cause, or any line of argument which he adopted, if it was in reality a good and sound one.

It may be well, however, not to test too rigidly the value of the remark,—meant to be at least of the nature of argument,—when we find him saying that “a plain man sitting down to read the Scripture account of the Deluge would have no doubt of its universality.” Perhaps not. But it is at least equally certain, that plain men who set themselves to deduce from Scripture the figure of the planet we inhabit had as little doubt, until corrected by the geographer, that the earth was a great plane,—not a sphere; that plain men who set themselves to acquire from Scripture some notion of the planetary motions had no doubt, in the same way, until corrected by the astronomer, that it was the earth that rested, and the sun that moved round it; and that plain men who have sought to determine from Scripture the age of the earth have had no doubt, until corrected by the geologist, that it was at most not much more than six thousand years old. In fine, when plain men, who, according to Cowper, “know, and know no more, their Bible true,” have in perhaps every instance learned from it what it was in reality intended to teach,—the way of salvation,—it seems scarce less certain, that in every instance in which they have sought to deduce from it what it was *not* intended to teach,—the truths of physical science,—they have fallen into extravagant error. And as any question which, bearing, not on the punitive extent and ethical consequences of the Flood, but merely on its geographic limits and natural effects, is not a moral, but a purely physical

Poole's Synopsis, Henry's Commentary, and Robertson's Researches in Palestine. These constituted what he called his Biblical Library. ‘There,’ said he to a friend, pointing, as he spoke, to the above-named volumes as they lay together on his library table, with a volume of the ‘Quotidianæ,’ in which he had just been writing, lying open beside them,—‘these are the books I use: all that is Biblical is there.’”—*Dr Hanna's Preface to “Daily Scripture Readings.”*