

**GENESIS AND GEOLOGY, OR, AN
INVESTIGATION INTO THE
RECONCILIATION OF THE MODERN
DOCTRINES OF GEOLOGY WITH
THE DECLARATIONS OF SCRIPTURE**

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Genesis and Geology, or, an Investigation into the Reconciliation of the Modern Doctrines of Geology with the Declarations of Scripture by Denis Crofton

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DENIS CROFTON

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GENESIS AND GEOLOGY;

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INTO THE

RECONCILIATION OF THE MODERN DOCTRINES OF
GEOLOGY WITH THE DECLARATIONS OF
SCRIPTURE.

BY

DENIS CROFTON, B. A.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION,

BY

EDWARD HITCHCOCK, D. D., LL. D.,
PRESIDENT OF AMHERST COLLEGE, AND PROFESSOR OF NATURAL THEOLOGY AND
GEOLOGY.



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INTRODUCTION.

I HAVE taken the responsibility of recommending to the enterprising publishers whose names appear on the title-page, to republish this little work, in its present form, and thus to place it within reach of American Christians, for the following reasons :

First, because I have met with no examination of the connection between "Geology and Genesis" so able as this. Other eminent writers, such as Dr. Chalmers, J. Pye Smith, Harris, Buckland, Silliman, Sedgwick, and Whewell, have shown great skill in the examination of the Biblical questions connected with Geology ; but none of them have gone so fully into the argument as Mr. Crofton.

Secondly, because this author seems to me to have treated the subject with great candor ; so that if his conclusions do not seem satisfactory to any, they will at least be saved from irritation and disgust.

Thirdly, because he has opened a track which may be followed further by Biblical students, — I mean in the examination of parallel passages of inspiration, — and thus may we hope that, ere long, the full and exact force of the Bible on these subjects may be brought out.

Finally, because his course of argument is eminently adapted to satisfy the authorized expounders of God's Word

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—I mean the ministers of the Gospel— that there is no collision between "Genesis and Geology."

Mr. Crofton has made one or two favorable allusions to an earlier production of mine on this same subject. But I cannot suppose that any one will consider so slight a reference to be a reason why I should have formed a high opinion of his work, or why I should not express it.

EDWARD HITCHCOCK.

AMHERST COLLEGE, }
January 15th, 1853. }

P R E F A C E .

THE following pages appeared first in the quarterly "Journal of Sacred Literature" (edited by the Rev. J. Kitto, D. D., F. S. A.), for October, 1850. They are now presented to the public in a separate shape, with a few alterations not involving any substantial change, and some additions. They constituted a result of the author's first application to the study of Geology, and an effort upon his part to supply, at least in some degree, what he himself felt to be a desideratum, to those who were anxious to find out to what extent some of the various hypotheses for reconciling Geology with the Bible could be borne out by the general tenor of the sacred writings. It suggested itself to his mind, that a mass of Scripture bearing more or less directly upon this subject, lay yet in some degree at least unexplored, — that many passages not hitherto, as far as he was aware of, brought forward, might, with respect to this, be turned to account, and the credibility of the whole made stronger by a more minute sifting of the parts. The investigation is one which should be conducted, by the sceptic, *at least* in the spirit of fair inquiry, — by the Christian, in a prayerful dependence upon the blessing of means by the Spirit of truth, — by all under the conviction that *some* existing impressions may possibly be erroneous, and that

truth need never shrink from scrutiny. The vast importance of the matter is the only excuse which the author, as a layman, can assign for intruding upon a subject which is generally considered as the peculiar province of the clerical profession. He must offer, beforehand, his apology for the many imperfections which may yet lurk in the sequel, undiscovered by him, and anticipate with his thanks the labors of the critic who may point them out. If, however, anything which he may have put forward should be the means of directing some abler hand into the same track, of confirming the faith of a Christian, or removing a doubt from the mind of a sceptic, his end will have been fully answered. He must acknowledge his obligations to the chapter upon the "Consistency of Geological Discoveries with Sacred History," in the Dean of Westminster's Bridgewater Treatise, of a great part of which he has availed himself, and to the late lamented Dr. J. Pye Smith's Lectures "On the relation between the Holy Scriptures and some parts of Geological Science," — which able work he first met with after the substantial composition of the ensuing essay, — for the proofs in his third proposition of the credibility of a limited extent of the deluge, a point in which his original had been deficient.

Since the publication of this article in *Kitto's Journal*, the author has met, for the first time, with the valuable paper upon "The Connection between Geology and the Mosaic History of the Creation," by Professor Hitchcock, in the number of the *American "Biblical Repository"* for October, 1835, and also the reply to this by the late Professor M. Stewart, in that for January, 1836. He acknowl-