

To the Editor of the S. Chronicle
Dear Sir

I am sorry that your correspondent "Cosmogonist" has taken the trouble to criticize the very meagre abstract of my lecture on "Creation", which has evidently been insufficient to enable him fully to comprehend my views, much less the ~~reason~~ arguments by which they were supported. For instance the kind of "accommodation" to which I objected, is that which assumes that the statements of scripture were purposely adapted to errors in reference to natural science prevalent or supposed to be prevalent at the time when they were written. Even the examples referred to in the report, namely the supposed scripture accommodation to the doctrines of a plane earth and a solid firmament, might have shown that this, and not the spiritual meanings of parables & prophetic emblems, was the point in view.

Again I fully admitted that the day said to be separated from the night is the Natural day; but I called

attention to the circumstance that it
is "called" or named day, ^{that is as I suppose the day of popular speech} as if to dis-
tinguish it from the creature day,
just as the dry land is "called"
earth to distinguish it from the earth
of verse first, which must mean not
the dry land only but the whole
world.

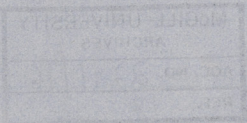
In like manner, your correspondent
appears to infer from the report, that
I suppose light in a diffused form & have
always existed, and I admit that the
reporter does not seem to have very
distinctly apprehended the first part of
my statement, viz that, though the matter
of light was probably like other matter
created in the beginning, it took the form
of what we recognise as light, only when
the fiat went forth, "let there be light"; ~~which~~
~~communicated to it its~~ but that it was still
widely diffused in space, and was not
separated from the night ~~when~~ ^{until} concentrated
within the orbit of the earth, which on
good scientific evidence we must believe to =

tated on its axis from the beginning.

I trust that your correspondent will from these examples see the impropriety of treating the report in question as a full exposition of my views on this important subject. It was prepared without my knowledge, and I revised it for the Witness only after it had appeared in a still more ^{imperfect} ~~incorrect~~ form in another paper. I trust however that I shall ere long find time to prepare in a more detailed form the results of a ~~very~~ long and careful examination of these vexed questions; and in the mean time I shall be glad to profit by the exposition of the conclusions of your correspondent; though, if I rightly apprehend his position, I fear that there are deep fissures in the points of view from which we regard the subject, that must prevent us from ~~agreeing as to its aspects~~ arriving at the same results.

Yours very truly

The Lecturer



We have received a communication in reply to "Cosmogonia," published
in our paper of the 27th Dec^r 1856, which we decline publishing, not
because it contains any thing objectionable, but because the Dis-
cussions which might ensue, would be quite uninteresting to the ~~public~~
appearing as they must do so many weeks apart from one
another, owing to the great distance of one of the parties.

We think besides, that its publication is unnecessary
on the ground that "The lecturer" says, he does not hold himself respon-
sible for Meigs' statements of his doctrine, got up by reporting our ^{words}
he had no controul, and who appears to have had very judicious
apprehensions of the subject of the doctrine, and which abstract,
in the objectionable form referred to, were published without
his knowledge or permission.

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Editor & Chronicle

1856

J. W. D.

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