

## CORRESPONDENCE.

*Geological Plagiarism.*

The following copy of a letter published in the 'Reader,' has been sent to us for insertion :—

"GEOLOGICAL PLAGIARISM.—To the Editor of the 'Reader.'—Sir,—Under this head I observe a letter in the last impression of the 'Reader,' which is by no means flattering to myself, and I would therefore now beg to make a few remarks by way of explanation. 'F. G. S.' is not incorrect in supposing that he 'had seen the same ideas, and possibly some of the same expressions, not long before in the Memoirs of the Geological Survey.' I acknowledge the similarity of idea in the passages quoted by him, and the sameness of expression of which, in one or two cases, as a student and a beginner, I have been unfortunately guilty, and which, but for an oversight, would have been indicated by inverted commas. But when I show how that has arisen, I hope 'F. G. S.' will understand my excuse; and should this meet the eye of Mr. Geikie, that that gentleman will accept my apology. On reading over, some time ago, the Geological Survey's Memoir on Edinburgh, I was struck with Mr. Geikie's remarks on 'Denudation' in chap. xiii., which, by the way, applied to Midlothian generally, and not to Arthur's Seat in particular. The idea which more especially attracted my attention was that Midlothian had been subjected to a process of denudation at two different and widely-separate periods in geologic time, and as I happened to be studying the geology of Arthur's Seat at the time, I naturally desired to have a clearer idea of the effects of denudation on that particular hill. The result was the paper in question, which, as you can easily imagine, was written in the spirit of Mr. Geikie's remarks, but at the same time with the desire to give greater prominence than he has done to the idea above-mentioned. The *plan* of my paper is quite different from the chapter in the Memoir, and is all I ever intended to 'be regarded as original.' I certainly ought to have mentioned the source from which I had gathered a portion of my information, and herein I confess I have made a mistake; but at the same time 'F. G. S.' and Mr. Geikie will remember that these ideas on the denudation of Midlothian are by no means new, but have been more or less entertained by our local geologists for some time back, and have even been made the subject of papers before the Edinburgh societies, as my own was before its appearance in the pages of the 'Geologist.'—I am, Sir, yours respectfully, JAMES HASWELL.

"*Edinburgh, 23rd March, 1864.*"

*The Eternity of the Universe; in Hebrew Phraseology, of the Heavens and the Earth.*

Sir,—After many years' reflection upon the subject, I have come to the conclusion that the true Scriptural doctrine—which at the same time commends itself to reason—is, that the universe (in Hebrew phraseology, the heavens and the earth) is eternal; in other words, that as there always has been and will be a God, so there always has been and will be a universe,—in Hebrew phraseology, an earth and heavens. I have come to the