

and that marine life ante-dates the land fauna. But they would not agree that all forms of vegetable life came in before any animals appeared at all, or that the world of marine life was completed before any land animals came into being. The lowest forms of animal life, both in the seas and on land, must have appeared before the higher forms of plant life. In fact the three forms of life rise to a large extent concurrently along parallel ascending grades. Then the question arises as to what we are to make of the evenings, when nothing seems to be doing at all. Some have supposed these to represent great upheavals, by which the long periods of slow change were separated from each other. But science knows nothing of any such convulsions as were simultaneous or nearly so over the whole earth, or anything that might correspond to such breaks in the continuity of creative action. If what we have in the first chapter of *Genesis* is an anticipation of modern geology, then it must be read in such a broad and generous way as would make it equally harmonious with scientific views widely different from those generally held at the present time. The rapid sketch must be composed of broad lines considerably idealized for the sake of simplicity and artistic effect. The lines are indeed so broad that no one would ever discover the real facts from them, until first these facts had been ascertained in some other way. Scientific anticipations of that sort are really of no value, and the claim for their existence is rather embarrassing to inspiration than otherwise.

4. Hence many are now disposed to adopt a different method and to hold that the first chapter of *Genesis* was never intended to be taken as giving a literal cosmology at all, but is simply a poem of creation arranged on the days of the week as a convenient framework, so as to be more easily remembered, not intended to teach anything regarding the time occupied in creation or even as to the order of it, but meant only to teach the great truth that all things were created by the one true God, who alone, therefore, is to be worshipped as divine.