

4 "HE SPAKE AND IT WAS DONE"

in the great song of praise to God, because "God in the beginning has laid the foundation of the earth, and the Heavens are the work of His hands" (Heb. i. 10).

The Gradual Progress of the Creation.

Into this dark, formless chaos came order, life and light. Each stage is divided into periods called evening and morning (2 Peter iii. 8). Each stage is brought about by the Word of the Lord; that still calm voice which has spoken all down the ages. Each stage is a revelation of the goodness and love of God, for as each command of order, light and love comes into the world it changes the future home of man into a place which is not only fit, but also exquisitely prepared for him. Each gift as it came from the Father of lights passed under His all-seeing eye, and was pronounced by Him to be very good. As we think of the light and of its gradual progress across the brooding darkness, we remember that spiritual light is in like manner by the same will of God passing across the spiritual darkness. The command, "Let there be light," has gone forth as surely in the spiritual world as in the natural world, although to us the Sun of Righteousness may seem to arise but slowly with healing in His wings. At the next stage of the Creation, as the word of God goes forth, the firmament, like some vast canopy, is lifted above the earth. The sea is given bounds which it may not pass. Vegetable life is created; mists and vapours are removed in order that the sun and moon may appear; the great laws which govern the astronomical world are decreed. These are the laws which men formulate and call science; these laws remain unchanged, and without need of change, for "God rested from His work," and "behold it was very good."

The Creation of Higher Life.

After this follows the creation of conscious life in the air, in the sea, and, at a later period, upon the earth. This conscious life is especially owned and blessed by God. Before man is given dominion over this higher life, with the

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