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who presented them could say with full confidence: "Lo I come to do Thy will, O God."

In our Lord Jesus Christ both of these defects were remedied. He offered not "the blood of goats and calves, but by His own Blood, He entered in once into the holy place." Yea, He "through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God;" and so He "obtained eternal redemption for us," and purged man's "conscience from dead works to serve the living God," And the mind and will of the Offerer were as perfect and complete as the offering which He presented. He could say, "Lo, I come, . . . I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart: "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me." (Ps. xl. 7,8; S. Johniv. 34). And hence it is that by this "will we are sanctified, through the offering of the Body of Jesus Christ."

THE PRIEST ALSO BLESSED.

Nor is it only on this side of His priestly work that He gives in its fulness that which has been provided in a shadowdy and partial manner by the Mosaic economy. The High Priests of Israel, Aaron and his sons, were commanded not only to offer for the people, but to bless them, and words of blessing were put into their mouths which they were to speak as they lifted up their hands over them. (Numb. vi. 23-27; Lev. ix. 22). Nor was such a blessing inefficacious. "They shall put my Name," said Almighty God, "upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them." Yet it lacked the authority and the grace which accompanied the benediction of the Lord. "The Holy Ghost was not yet given;" and only Christ had power, during His personal ministry, to anticipate that gift—the reward of His own finished and perfected work. Not only by words but by acts He makes it evident "that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins." When He lays His hands upon the little children who are brought unto Him and blesses them, when He leads His disciples out as far as to Bethany, and rises up into the heavens, and vanishes out of their sight, as He lifts up His hands and blesses them, we know that these words of blessing are words of power and of grace, because His whole life was full of grace, and truth, and blessing. "He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." (Ps. xxxiii. 9).

CHRIST'S PRIESTLY WORK IN HEAVEN.

But the priestly work of our Lord was not discontinued or suspended when He went from earth to heaven. It would be more correct to say that it was there its true power and efficacy began. At the right hand of God He is seated "a priest upon His throne," (Zech. vi. 13), and "ever liveth to make intercession for all that come unto God by Him." (Heb. vii. 25). And thence He sends that promised Comforter who ever proceedeth from the Father and the Son. There in the presence of the Most High He ever shows, presents, and pleads the sacrifice which He offered, the Blood which He shed, once for all, upon the Cross, for the redemption of mankind. And thence He dispenses His Divine blessing—those gifts which He has procured and is now procuring, by the offering of His life and by His abiding intercession.

AND ON EARTH.

But it is not in heaven only, and invisibly, that the priestly work of our Lord is carried on. The offering of worship and sacrifice to God is the very life of the Church on earth, as it is also the work of the Church to bless mankind in the Name and by the grace of her Lord. This double work is carried on by the Church at large and by her ministers peculiarly. At the altar she pleads on earth, but does not repeat, that one complete sacrifice which her Lord offered upon the Cross, and now pleads but does not repeat in heaven. In the Name of Christ she blesses the nations of the earth, even as from Him, through His ministers, she hears and receives the words and the grace of absolution and blessing for herself. It is Christ Himself Who is the true and only High Priest of humanity; and all the grace and virtue which accompany or flow from the agency of His servants, proceed from Him; yet He speaks by many human voices and acts by many human hands. What is the special nature of that action, how we may discern and test those voices, we shall have hereafter

to consider. At present we must simply remind ourselves that our Blessed Lord, "because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood" (Heb. vii. 24) a priesthood that passeth not away; and that He exercises its functions not only in the invisible sanctuary, before the throne of God, whither we can enter by faith in His Name, but here also, in His Church on earth, by the hands and by the lips of men, who, all unworthy as they are of the high office which they bear, are yet called and sent by His grace to minister in holy things, to the honour of His Name and for the edification of His Church.

(To be Continued).

THE HYPOTHESIS OF EQUAL LIFE CHANCES COMPARED WITH THE HYPOTHESIS OF NATURAL SELECTION.

BY THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF MONTREAL.

No. 2.—Hydrozoa, etc.

A careful study of forms of life included under Hydrozoa and Actinozoa and Acalepha, testifies to the crippling of national selection. The Hydra does not lay traps for its prey or run it down, but spreading out its tentacles awaits its prey to touch them. Two movements of the tentacles are apparent. 1st. A gentle sweeping movement like the hand movement made by the blind; as if to test the amount of food within reach. 2nd. The tentacles protruded to their utmost limit waiting to be touched. When the tentacles are in the latter position I have seen various forms play about them with apparent safety until some one form touched, when at once it was captured. Here certainly the food composed of an improved variety has no better chance than an untmproved, for the "best fitted to survive may touch, but if so its fate is sealed, and natural selection as far as that form is concerned is paralyzed.

In the case of Anemones, Sea Cucumbers and like forms it is exactly the same. Anemones do not as a rule search for food, they are rooted to rocks and stones, constantly hiding their beauty on the walls of sea caverns served by the tide, and sea cucumbers lie almost buried in the sand or mud. The food supply depends largely if not wholly on what food may be washed by the tides within reach of their suckers, and the same may be said of the vast coral family.

The food of Acalepha is also wholly chance food, for the deadly appendages of the jelly fish hang loosely in the water, or sometimes trail far behind the actual body, not seeking out victims, but causing death to those who come within their deadly tangle. In Physalia (the Portuguese man of war) this trailing aspect is very apparent, also in Cyanea Cappillata (the long tailed stinger) and many other varieties of this remarkable order of life. Then the destruction of life for food is not only indiscriminate but enormous, as in the Greenland sea, where the jelly forms float to each other, and might be counted by millions in a shoal. In such a locality selection could not work. The victims float under a dome of death, and their lives depend not on the cunning movements of their enemies, but largely on their own chance movements in the water.

RADIATES.

Having treated Anamones, etc., under the heads of Aclenozoa and Hydrozoa, I would here refer only to a few other cases in Radiata, which seem to block natural selection by their methods of obtaining food. In Gorgonacephalus (sea baskets) the living form acts as a net, in which small forms of life are entangled, and Asterias, (star fishes,) though they may sometimes discriminate in food hunting, still as a rule it is plain that they take it largely as it comes. I have seen small crabs walk straight to death whilst the star fish was passive, and for all I know such crabs might have possessed valuable characteristics that entitled them under natural selection to preservation. In the destruction of oysters by star fish, one can scarcely suppose that the latter selects any one oyster to death—death of course depends on the open state of the shell, to allow the star fish to insert its reversible stomach and suck out the life of the oyster.

ARTICULATA.

In the case of the food supply of Lumbricus (earth worms) natural selection seems fairly ruled out as far as the main staple of nourishment is concerned, for the simple reason that worms swallow a quantity of earth out of which they extract any digestible matter which it may contain. Here the selection could go no further than between wholesome and unwholesome materials. Then, when a worm attacks a morsel of putrid flesh (dead flies, etc.,) full of forms of putridity, what possible field has natural selection to work in amongst such forms? The whole mass of putridity is bolted and finally dissolved inside the worm by the action of the pancreatic digestive fluid.

In the food supply of the great insect division of Articulate life natural selection has many obstacles in its way. In destroyers of life that lie hidden waiting for prey to come within reach, such as the larvæ of Cicindalu or of the Rove Beetle or of the Dor Beetle and other forms what comes is wholly a matter of chance, it may be some special form fated by natural selection to live, or fated by the same law to die. The beetles that destroy eggs for food such as Meloe Cicatricosus, and Carabus Auratus, can in no sense become agents for selection, for the eggs are destroyed in various stages of embryonic life, when selection would be impossible. So with all insectivorous root destroyers such as Cicada, (Homoptera), or the weevil Apion which destroys the roots of plants or the larvæ of the beetle Otiorhynchida which also destroys roots, or the parent beetle which eats into plants between roots and stem. In these cases the destruction is wholesale, for the ruined root means the destruction of the vegetation above. In the various forms of weevil (Coleoptra) and in injurious insects like the turnip fly (Hymenoptera) we come in contact with forms whose destructive powers are apparently recklessly wild. Weevils attack young buds, shoots, and fruits and that in the most delicate organs, and the destruction of seed by the corn weevil is as widespread as it is naturally indiscriminate. As for the turnip fly it leaves the land

as bare as if it was never sowed. In Lepidoptera, or the wide world of moths and butterflies, there are some striking cases such as the Cabbage Butterfly, the Cabbage Moth, the Lettuce Fly, the Turnip Moth, etc. In the case of the cabbage butterfly the eggs are deposited in the leaves of the young plant; in that of the moth and in that of the lettuce fly, the caterpillar burrows right into the heart of the plant, and the turnip moth feeds first on the leaf of the turnip, then descends and fixes on the upper portion of the root where it is joined to the stem and ruins the whole plant. In these cases it seems impossible to suppose a discrimination between one plant and another previous to the deposition of eggs, and the after-work of the caterpillar destroys all chances of the strong plant over the weak.

In Homoptera, one can scarcely watch the devastation caused by the great Aphis family without concluding that the trees they attack, if left to nature, have a poor chance of surviving. But then the attack seems indiscriminate, for I have seen the richest rose plants covered with the pest as well as the poorest. If food be plenty rose trees may survive for years, and each year brings its crop of invaders, but where food is scarce, and lady birds few, the pest increases and attacks the root, and then the fate of the plant is sealed.

Any advantage possessed by a form of vegetable life through profitable variation seems wholly wiped out by locusts and grasshoppers (Orthoptera), through the wholesale destruction of all vegetable life. From the moment that the larvæ are hatched and commence their career of destruction, until in their winged state they invade a district, their influence on vegetation is that of indiscriminate desolation, inasmuch as they proceed in successive flights: each flight being determined by the total clearance out of the food supply within the district settled down on. Strong and weak, favourable and unfavourable variations are alike to them—everything disappears under their baneful presence.

Amongst Arachnidans, chance seems to rule altogether, for although a spider may select the order of time for killing its prey, in no sense can it be said to select its prey to doom. It might appear that the strongest fly in the web would have a vast