

lutely no geologic evidence. All the evidence is indeed the other way. And it postulates a rapidity in God's action at one particular point of time without parallel elsewhere in geologic history, either before or since. It is not to be wondered at that before such objections as these the theory has practically disappeared from view and is no longer seriously discussed.

3. A third mode of reconciliation is to take the creative days, not as ordinary days of twenty-four hours each, but as geological periods of any required length, during which the creative process proceeded step by step until at last man appeared.

This view of the creative days was suggested as far back as the fifth century by Augustine, long before the scientific difficulty was felt at all. It was revived in modern times to escape the apparent contradiction by the celebrated Hugh Miller. It is still the view held by many theologians and by many scientists who are desirous of putting themselves into harmony with Biblical teaching. It is the view which perhaps has done more than any other to relieve the tension of the popular mind on the question. And certainly a good deal can be said in favor of it. There is no strong philological objection to it, for the Hebrew word for "day" may be taken, if necessary, in that broad sense without any great violence to its usage elsewhere. There is undoubtedly a general correspondence between the order of creation as given in Genesis and that accepted by science—rising from lower forms of life to higher until man is reached. In fact, some have gone so far as to claim for it that it is a brilliant and inspired anticipation of the latest science.

But when the comparison between the two records is closely pressed difficulty arises. For example, according to Genesis all forms of plant life are represented as appearing on the third day, all marine animals and birds on the fifth day, and land animals of every kind on the sixth. Palaeontologists would probably all agree that plants must have existed before animals