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CHANCE or THE CHRIST?

[Copyright, 1914, in the United States of America, by R. E. Macnaghten.]

CHANCE or THE CHRIST? This universal frame
From one or other into being came:
Chance linked the atoms from which life began,
Or Christ inspired them with His living flame.

When first this planet through the void was flung,
A molten mass of lurid heat it swung
For endless æons in primeval space,
And lifeless rolled its lifeless peers among.

A million years were but as yesterday
To bring new order to that wild array;
The cooling surface marked the gathering seas,
Yet still on lifeless matter dawned the day.

Then life was born. Did Chance together pose
The tiny atoms whence that life arose?
Was neither Thought nor Sense the guiding power
When Chaos travail'd in her mystic throes?

Or did a Mighty and a Master mind—
Though to His presence mortal eyes be blind—
First give the life which surges all around?
In one or other we the answer find.