

see. In the first verse of Genesis we are informed that "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," and the question is, what is to be understood by the expression "In the beginning." The general supposition, or rather dogmatic assertion, is by the believers in the chronology of Archbishop Ussher, that it refers to a time somewhat less than 6,000 years ago, and at various other dates by the believers in other chronologists, whose calculations differ materially from the Archbishop's and from each other. But it will be observed that for such assertions there are absolutely no reasonable grounds. The chronologies are all founded upon the supposed date of Adam's appearance on the earth, and the conclusion seems to have been at once arrived at, that the world must naturally have been suddenly called into existence immediately before Adam; but between these two events there is not necessarily any such connection. There is the simple statement standing as it were, by itself, that "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth," and the expression is so obviously indefinite, that the continued holding and defence of the construction so long put upon it is only to be explained by the blindness of a deeply rooted prejudice. Thus in no sense can any statement of the earth's greater antiquity than the popular view be said to come into collision with Holy writ, for the simple reason, that Holy writ makes no statement of a definite nature on the subject.

The opinion as to the recent introduction of animal life upon the Globe seems at first sight more plausible, and if we disregard the revelations of science, has in its favor much apparent reason, but when we study the teachings of the Book of Nature, which has the same Divine Author as the Book of Revelation, and which must, therefore, necessarily be in perfect harmony with it, and find that such teachings throw a doubt upon—not the Divine Record—but upon the popular interpretation of it, we are not justified in condemning the facts of science as opposed to Scripture, and consequently in crediting, before we have carefully enquired whether our reading of Scripture be in reality the true sense of it. If an opposite course is taken, it involves falling into an error equally culpable to that charged against the men of science, i. e. throwing discredit upon the works of God, just as they have been supposed, unjustly, to throw discredit upon the word of God.

Now, if the statement in the first chapter of Genesis is unquestionably that the whole living Creation was the work of six natural days, there can be little hesitation in saying that Geology and Scripture, or the handwriting in the two books of the same infallible author, are directly at variance, and any one holding to the one must reject the other as false. But such an antagonism is impossible, and we must conclude that it is our interpretation of either one or both of the records which is at fault, consequently our most becoming attitude should be that of patient waiting and investigation till the explanation which must exist, has been found.

There is, however, one view which has been taken, which although presenting some difficulties, meets to a great extent the requirements of the case, and will probably be found to be the correct one. It is true, that each act of Creation, is stated to have been performed in one day, and it is thought that this is decisive, but this is a hasty conclusion. It is not necessary to take this word day, as certainly meaning twenty-four hours, for this reason, that it does not always bear that construction in other parts of Scripture, and more important still, it will be found on reference to the best authorities as to the Hebrew language, that the original word, which is translated "day," in the first chapter of Genesis and elsewhere, is incorrectly, so rendered, there being nothing to lead to the idea of twenty-four hours, or of any definite time, but that it is, in fact, nearly synonymous with our word "period," a word which is quite indefinite in respect to duration. Hence we do no violence to the text in substituting the term "period" for "day" in the account of Creation, and this simple verbal attention being made, it will be observed, changes the whole aspect of the question, a formidable obstacle is removed, and a fair way is opened up for a rational and satisfactory reconciliation between the facts of Science and the Bible.

Having thus cleared the ground a little, with a view to prevent any misunderstanding, we may now proceed briefly to review the history of the earth, as recorded in the Book of Nature. And first it may be said that the careful calculations made by Geologists, have placed beyond doubt the fact of the utter impossibility of the world, and of the greater part of the animal and vegetable creations having been brought into being so recently as 6,000 years ago, and not only so, but the conclusion is irresistible, that

if we would go back to the time of the actual Creation, we must go back a distance, in comparison with which a few thousand years sink into insignificance—a distance of which tens of millions of years would be of inadequate expression.

The manner in which the earth was created is unknown, but judging from the mode in which the operations of the Creator have been and are carried on, the probability is that the idea of the earth instantly starting into existence at the Divine command, is incorrect. There is one theory on this subject, which although it may seem open to the charge, by those who have not fairly considered it, is by no means visionary or unlikely.

The idea is that in the distant past before any world existed space was pre-occupied by an infinitude of atoms of matter. At the Divine command these atoms became aggregated by virtue of the law of gravitation, around various nuclei till masses of enormous size was formed. One of these was our own Sun, but then of immensely greater bulk than at present. The next step was in giving the mass its motions, viz., on its axis and through space, in a circle, as supposed round some still larger. The result of the first of these motions would be that the outer portions of the mass being insufficiently held by the centripetal or gravitating force, the centrifugal force would obtain the mastery, and large portions of the gaseous or igneous mass would be thrown out into the space, where by the same laws of the centripetal and centrifugal forces, they would naturally assume a nearly globular form, and commence and continue a revolution around the central body from which they had been detached. This is a very brief and imperfect account of the theory; but perhaps sufficiently clear to give an idea of its character. Naturally there is little evidence which can be brought forward in support of it, but at least the idea is a magnificent one, and it is undoubtedly in harmony with what was clearly the original condition of the world as a globe, that is to say an igneous or molten mass. The most striking proof of this is to be found in the character of the lowest and most ancient rocks, which make up the crust of the earth. These rocks all over the world, form the base or foundation on which all other rocks repose, and are all granitic or crystalline in character, without the least sign of stratification, and so being, could only have been formed after existing in a state of fusion. In both these respects, viz., unstratified and crystalline character, the granitic system differs from all subsequent formations, which were as evidently deposited by the action of water. As soon as the globe had cooled down to a certain point, the gases floating around would naturally combine to form air and water on the surface, thereby introducing two agents of essential importance, which at once commenced, and have continued to exert an all important influence in the modification and adaptation of the earth's surface. By their action, but at first particularly by that of water, with which the earth was probably for a considerable time almost entirely covered and which would be agitated by terrific storms, the warm matter was subjected to a disintegrating process, and the particles of matter again deposited at the bottom of the ocean, thus forming a series of strata, known as the transition series. This name indicates the nature of the deposits. The still considerable heat of the granitic base on which they lay, and the frequent eruptions through the thin crust yet existing, breaking and overspreading the early transition rock, to some extent metamorphosed them, that is destroyed in part by their sedimentary character, and by partly crystallizing, approached them in appearance to the granitic base. The period corresponding to this formation must have been of considerable duration, and the question very naturally arises, are there any indications within our reach to lead us to think that there were then any organized forms in existence? If we except a doubtful case brought forward by Sir Wm. Logan, the principal of the Canadian Geological Survey, we must answer that no traces of life have been found in the earlier strata. Some have, therefore, supposed from this, that life had not yet been introduced, but this conclusion does not by any means necessarily follow from such mere negative evidence, that no remains have been discovered. We must consider, in the first place, that if minute living forms were in existence at the time referred to, the heat and great disturbance to which the strata were unquestionably subjected, would have gone far to obliterate any traces that would otherwise be left, and 2ndly, we have no warrant for concluding that because no remains have been brought to light, so far, that therefore none exist, and that none will be found; for it must be remembered, that these transition rocks are in almost every part of the world, and only a small portion of those thrown to the sur-

face has been closely examined. The propriety of this caution is more evident when we come to examine the character of the first known fossils, which are those found in the clay state and Grauwacke rocks. These are of a lowly organization, but are not of the simplest forms of life, and as we shall see in a little, we are justified in expecting that as the first living creatures created would be of this description, we may suppose they actually existed, although positive evidence to this effect is not yet in our possession. This supposition is again strengthened by the fact that even in the clay state stratum no traces have been found of any description of vegetation, and yet we cannot escape the conviction that some such existed, unless it can be believed that animals of this early period, unlike those of succeeding ages, lived and thrived on air and water, a description of diet which must be admitted would be somewhat unsubstantial.

ST. CATHARINES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The monthly meeting of the journeymen tailors protective society of this town, was held on Monday last, there was a good attendance, and several new members were added to the society's roll. The circular relative to the proposed Labor Convention in Toronto next month, was to have been taken up, but owing to the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, this mighty important matter was delayed till next monthly meeting. The matter of having a tailor's picnic was then taken up, when on motion, duly seconded, it was resolved to set apart the last Monday in August for this purpose; a committee was appointed to make all necessary arrangements; we understand McLaren's string band has been engaged for the occasion. The society is in a very prosperous condition; this state of things is greatly due to the excellent management of its office bearers; we believe we are safe in saying that each of the organized trades will send a delegate to the Labor Convention.

I omitted to mention in connection with Mr. Smith's saw factory, which is approaching completion, that the men, owing to the kindness of Mr. Smith, are allowed to quit work on Saturdays at four o'clock, which is considered a great boon. We trust employers generally, will soon see their way to make similar conditions, as in our opinion it would tend greatly to a better feeling between masters and men. Trade has slightly improved since my last letter, though not as much as is desirable. We have much pleasure in stating, that a lecture will be delivered next month by Calvin Brown, Esq., Subject—Co-operative Building Societies. The subject is one of great interest to the working classes everywhere, and we know of no one more entitled to speak on the subject than Mr. Brown; he has done as much for the Town of St. Catharines as any man we are aware of; he has secured the rules and various reports from the following places: Chicago, Montreal and Edinburgh. We have no doubt the lecture will be highly interesting, and replete with every possible information; we trust the result will be the formation of a Working Men's Co-operative Building Society, which is certainly much required in this growing Town.

Your readers have been startled by the news in the WORKMAN for last week, and also in one of the daily issues of the Mail of last week, anent the premium allowed to emigrants on being three months in Canada. Well sir, without at all flattering ourselves, allow us to say that we have been instrumental in inducing many hundreds to emigrate to Canada. Many of whom are getting on well, many of these men expect to get their six dollars premium, and it is really too bad to be told that no one can get it without passing through the agents' hands, a matter of such importance demands immediate investigation. It will do more harm to the cause of emigration than any thing that has yet taken place.

St. Catharines, August 16th, 1873.

FOREIGN LABOR NOTES.

A large number of French workmen left Paris lately, to visit the Vienna exhibition. They had been elected as delegates by their different trades, and the interest felt in this matter was so great that in some instances between eight and nine hundred votes were recorded for the successful candidates. At the meeting of the bookbinders, M. Chabert made a speech on the subject of the election of delegates which has been extensively reproduced by the French press as indicating the spirit which animates the trade corporations on this question. He stated that though they had been the victims of many attacks, false accusations and insinuations, they should remain indifferent to the libels of their enemies. These latter pretend that the delegates, when once they reach Vienna, will not

merely attend to the trade questions inscribed in their mandate, but will form some political cabal. This, however, M. Chabert emphatically denies and maintains that experience will prove that the delegates will only busy themselves with trade questions. To try and improve the trade of France by visiting exhibitions and studying the perfection of foreign arts, is a patriotic duty which the French workmen will know how to accomplish successfully, though deprived of the pecuniary assistance they had hoped to receive from the State.

While alluding to the action of the State in matters relating to the working classes of France, we are obliged to chronicle three cases of interference on the part of the authorities, on which we leave the public to form its own opinion. At Rouen a certain number of workmen intended starting a co-operative bake-house. A public meeting was to be convoked, so as to gather together all persons likely to support the scheme, and the initiators therefore proceeded in accordance with the text of the law to ask the Central Commissioner of Police for leave to hold a public meeting. It would be difficult to depict the astonishment of these would-be co-operators unless the Commissioner of Police emphatically refused to give his sanction on the ground that in making bread on co-operative principles, they were carrying in to practice the abhorred doctrines of the "International!" The second case we have to mention occurred at Bordeaux, where in reply to a demand of some workmen who wanted to hold a trade meeting, the Commissioner of Police said:—"I will authorize the meeting as you wish it, but on condition that you do not use the word corporation in your speeches!" We are curious to know what constitutes a menace to the well-being of society, or the security of a State in the simple word corporation—particularly as trade corporations exist in the most peaceful states of Europe. The third instance of this extraordinary excess of zeal on the part of the authorities occurred at Montbard. We mentioned two weeks ago that a mutual benefit society had been started in this town, of the department du Mont d'Or. It appears that on being asked for the necessary authorization to start this society, the Commissioner of Police replied that they must first obtain the approval of the parish priest.

MR. MONSELL AND THE POSTAL EMPLOYEES.

Mr. Monsell has yielded with a very bad grace to the pressure of public opinion, and has withdrawn the absurd regulation, which would have rendered it impossible to send a few stamps by post without paying an exorbitant fee for the accommodation. He, however, intends to bring it forward again next year, as he is still of opinion that it is a salutary and necessary rule. The ostensible motive is the protection of the postal employees from temptation; but it seems never to have occurred to the Postmaster-General, that though a shilling's worth of stamps may excite the cupidity of a man whose income is so low that a shilling is to him a large sum, yet that, if that man's wages be raised to a reasonable extent, it would be extremely improbable that the sight of such a petty prize would excite any irrepressible longing in his mind. Mr. Monsell cannot pretend that the postal employees are adequately remunerated for the important and responsible duties they perform. His allusion to the "additional advantages" enjoyed by the postmen is quite beside the mark. His consciousness that at some remote period in the future he will (if he lives) enjoy a pension may be very consoling to the mind of the employee, but it will hardly help him to buy bread and butter for his children now. We wonder, too, that Mr. Monsell, a member of a "Liberal Government," is not ashamed of the meanness of reckoning the postman's Christmas-box as part of his wages. What would the right hon. gentlemen say if some one were to propose to make certain deductions from his salary because his official position has now and then obtained for him an invitation to dinner? However the authorities may juggle with figures, they cannot get rid of the fact that during the last ten years the cost of living has enormously increased, and while the wages of workmen in almost every trade and occupation have been proportionately raised, those of the postal employees have remained stationary. The men have repeatedly petitioned and patiently waited, behaving throughout with the most exemplary decorum, and it is now high time that their grievances were redressed. Mr. Monsell says that he is willing to consider any "real grievance," but that Parliamentary pressure will not tend to facilitate matters. Does he mean that men who are now paid at the same rate that they were ten years ago, when the necessities of life were so much cheaper, have no "real" grievances?

If he does not like "pressure" he should render it unnecessary by doing justice to his subordinates. If there be no "real grievances," how is it that the men are forbidden, under threat of dismissal, to state their case to the public either by letters to the Press or by meeting outside the Post Office walls? The authorities need not fear exposure if there is nothing to expose. They should rather court publicity, in order that the purity, justice, and liberality of their system may be made more manifest.

JOSEPH ARCH.

Mr. Joseph Arch, the leader of the farm laborers' movement in England, has announced that he will visit the United States, not as intimated in our telegraphic despatches—to raise funds for the union—but in order to see for himself the prospects of comfort offered to emigrating agricultural laborers from the United Kingdom. When announcing his intention to leave England in August, he said: "If he found that country, the United States, the home of the workingman, where the laborer was free to make his own terms, if his boy could sit down on the same form with the boy whose father had got wealth, read out of the same book, and write on the same slate, where the poor man had political power the same as the class above him; then if the farmers would not treat their laborers like men, if they would follow him he would lead workmen across the broad Atlantic to the fruitful fields of America, with its 90 million of acres yet untilled—he would stand upon the shores of America until he had drained the resources of England, and had made the farmers bite the dust." Now all these advantages are offered to every settler in this Dominion; and nowhere can the workingmen find a better home than in Canada. In view of the want of farm laborers here and the probability—even certainty—that Mr. Arch's visit to America will stimulate emigration among the agricultural population of England, would it not be desirable to invite Mr. Arch and some of his colleagues, as representing English laborers, to visit Canada and make a trip to Manitoba, as was done with the Menonite delegation? If the magnificent lands of our "Prairie Province" sufficed to induce the Menonite representatives to take up lands in Manitoba for their fellow-countrymen in preference to the Western States of the neighboring Republic, surely the chances are greater that British peasants would make a like choice of their representatives, were afforded the opportunity to visit the great west of the Dominion. A large immigration of farm laborers would doubtless be followed by an incoming of farmers possessed of capital, of little use in England but of great value here, and thus while our farmers would be supplied with a sufficient supply of labor, and additional impetus would be given to the settlement of the rich prairie lands of Manitoba and the North-West. A colony of British small farmers and laborers would be a satisfactory addition to the Menonite Norwegian colonies, which will, ere long, come within our borders. At all events, it would be adopting a wise policy to make a vigorous effort to induce Mr. Arch to call over his thousands of followers to settle in Canada in preference to the United States. —Montreal Gazette.

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