

teaching which has come down to us from other nations. How strangely must it have sounded to the Israelites who had been brought up amidst the idolatry of Egypt! The Egyptians had seen the various forces of nature at work, and had attributed to them powers of good or of evil. They worshipped these forces in order that they might secure the blessing which they desired, or avert the trouble which they dreaded. But this opening verse at once lifts every eye from the creature to the Creator. The whole conception of God, as God and as Creator, is as far beyond human imagination as the Heavens are above the earth, but when once conceived it brings understanding and satisfaction to both soul and spirit. We see everywhere, in the Heavens and in the earth, one purpose, one conception, one marvellous forethought and intention, one scheme of love, one Master mind full of a beneficence, wisdom and majesty, inconceivable were it not thus revealed. "The Heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork." "How excellent is Thy name in all the earth." Science, in its gradual progression towards truth, spells out, follows and elucidates, the revelation of God as Creator of all.

The Earth—Chaos and Void.

We turn our eyes from the glory of God to the earth as first created by God, without form, void, dark, chaos; a fit emblem of the contrast between God, who is light, and man, who is darkness when left to himself and without the illuminating power of God. But upon the earth, even in this state of darkness, as later upon man, there moved the Spirit of God.

The Revelation of the Creation.

We cannot tell of what era of the creation these opening verses of Genesis speak. The revelation is given according to the limited power of man's understanding. It is given so clearly that the simplest child learns that his Father's hand of love has created everything and that it is very good. It is given so wonderfully that the advanced Christian can join