

2 "HE SPAKE AND IT WAS DONE"

very presence of God, and it is into this presence that he strives to lift the Israelites and all those for whom in the ages to come the Book was written. He leads them past the idolatry and superstition to God Himself, past the manifestation of power to the very source of Power. "In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth," or, as he says in the Ninetieth Psalm, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God." This last verse goes back even further than the former one, and is like the opening words of the Gospel of St. John, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

The Israelites had been exposed to the idolatry of Egypt, and they were about to be exposed to the even darker idolatry of Canaan. Hence the Book of Genesis opens with no uncertain sound, "In the beginning God," "God said," and "it was done," "The Lord God made the earth and the Heavens."

In the Beginning—God.

Gen. i., v. 1. This opening verse is full of grandeur, of mystery, and of majesty. It strikes the key of the strain which is afterwards sustained throughout the Bible. It is the inspired revelation of the living Personality whom we know as God. It tells of the First Cause of the vast universe of the Heavens, as well as of the earth, and of all that is therein. The whole Bible is the story of God's revelation of Himself to man; a revelation given at first dimly, because of man's inability to receive it, but later, as on Mount Sinai, with an increasing brightness, until, at the birth of Christ, it broke forth into a light which was and is to shine more and more unto the perfect day, when the "Lord God shall give them light," and "they shall see His face."

God, the One Inspirer and Creator of the Universe.

"God created the Heaven and the earth." How grandly this rings out in contrast with the uncertain and fragmentary

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