

# MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT.

## Evolution.

No intelligent person now doubts that there has been a continuous succession in organic forms from the dawn of creation to the present time. It is also clear that the many successive forms were not introduced in what might be called a helter-skelter sort of way, one class having no definite relation to another class, but that all has been arranged on a definite, harmonious plan. One form dies and another appears; and just as a child in the individual bears some sort of a relation to its parents, so do the new forms bear a relation to the forms that preceded them. This is evolution; and evolution of that kind needs no vindication.—THE INDEPENDENT.

Prof. J. W. Powell in an excellent article in the FORUM says: The evolution of life is accomplished in four stages. In the first mode of life, which is vitality, progress is made by the survival of the fittest in the struggle of existence. In the second mode of life, which is sentiency, progress is made by the development of organs in the struggle for happiness. In the third mode of life, which is percipiency, progress is made by the discovery of truth in the struggle for knowledge. In the fourth mode of life, which is volitiency, progress is made by the establish-

ment of justice in the struggle for peace.

## Progression.

LOOK where we will, we find nothing made perfect at once; scarcely anything is stationary; all things are in a state of progress. This may be in a thousand ways illustrated, and in every illustration man may read a lesson of instruction for himself. The herb, the tree, the animal, spring from an insignificant beginning, and reach their perfect stature by a gradual progress. The day does not open on the eye in meridian splendor. The year does not burst into ripe maturity at once. The nation does not arrive at power and fame in a day. To look more widely for instances: This earth on which we tread, with all its tribes of plants and animals, of every order, ascending in a beautiful scale to perfect man, has come to its present condition by a process of improvement.

## Morality.

THE true basis of morality is utility; that is, the adaptation of our actions to the promotion of the general welfare and happiness; the endeavor so to rule our life that we may serve and bless mankind. Through the scientific method only can the true rules of morality be dis-