

they are from eternity, the system of evolution, as an explanation of the universe, is impossible; and *if* they are from eternity, the system of evolution is likewise confessedly impossible. The only hypothesis which can save this elaborate system—the fruit of such toil of thinking, the object of such magnificent contributions out of the treasury of science—from utter self-destruction is that hypothesis the possibility of which is a corollary of the system itself: that from the beginning, or ever the earth and the world were made, the forces of the universe lay hidden in that mental form to which they are correlated—in eternal and infinite wisdom, love, and power. There, in limitless foreknowledge, was marshalled the order of the steadfast stars; there the massy architecture of the earth was planned; there tender mercy took counsel with unfathomed wisdom over creatures that were yet to be, and cared for the fall of the sparrows and the cry of the fledgling ravens; there the contemplation of a wise design “did behold our substance, yet being unperfect, and in its book all our members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.” It is evolution that teaches us that this *may* have been, and if it may have been, then it *must* have been. The necessary premise of the system, its inevitable consequence, is this, which already “by faith we know”: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” It is “the conclusion of the whole matter,” the same now as the day when “Ecclesiastes, or the Preacher,” “gave his heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven.” For now, as then and ever, science is religious, even though the scientific man may be materialist and atheist. O timid fellow Christian and theologian! does not this argument rebuke our unworthy fears of what materialism can do? So, often, the defenders of religious and spiritual truth have seemed to be seriously concerned that men were framing theories and systems of simple materialism, in which was place for neither God nor soul of man, but which derived all spiritual and mental facts from merely physical causes; thus building a bridge, from the