

this planet has gone cycling on, according to a fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning, endless forms, most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being evolved." And even Spencer admits the existence of Absolute Being: though he maintains that this Being is unknowable. In his work entitled, "First Principles," he says, "The axiomatic truths of physical science unavoidably postulate Absolute Being as their common basis." Both these eminent Evolutionists, however, exclude as far as we may judge from their works, the action of a Personal and Ever-Present God along the line in which Evolution is supposed to have taken place. I shall presently notice some of the inevitable results of this exclusion.

Spencer seems confident that Evolution without God is competent to solve all the phenomena of the Universe, including even those connected with the mental and moral endowments of man. Darwin, with more modesty, seems to feel that *his* theory of Evolution is still in a measure hypothetical, inasmuch as many of the intermediate links are wanting. It is, however, right to say that the discoveries of modern Science lead one to believe that before many years have elapsed, *some* theory of Evolution will be generally accepted by scientific men as the most rational explanation of the phenomena of Nature. We shall presently enquire whether there is a Theory of Evolution which we can accept, and yet retain our belief in a Personal, Ever-Present God, "of Whom, through Whom, and to Whom all things;" whether in fact we can be Evolutionists and at the same time devout Christian Theists. But before I do this I must be allowed to make a few observations on the modern Theory of Evolution so far as it has been elaborated and developed by Darwin, Spencer and others.

This theory, in consequence of its exclusion of the action and control of a pervading Mind, contradicts one of the fundamental axioms of both Philosophy and Science; namely—an effect cannot be greater than its cause. But here, according to this theory, are physi-