

animals to the highest in man; for we learn that "the eye in the lowest animal is a simple spot or pigment which does not yet reflect any image of external objects, but at most perceives and distinguishes the different rays of light. Later, we find in addition to this a sensitive nerve; then there gradually develops within the spot of pigment the first beginning of the lens, a refractive body which is now able to concentrate the rays of light and to reflect a definite image. But all the composite apparatus for the movement of the eye and its accommodation to variations of light and distance are still absent, namely, the various refractive media, the highly differentiated membrane of the optic nerve, etc., which are so perfectly constituted in higher animals. Comparative anatomy shows us an uninterrupted succession of all possible stages of transition, from the simplest organ to the most highly perfected apparatus, so that we can form a pretty correct idea of the slow and gradual formation of even such an exceedingly complex organ."\* From the lowest organism—the Monera, which are mere protoplasmic specks of mucus or slime—up to man, the ascent is so gradual as to be almost imperceptible, thus excluding at once and forever the idea of *special creation* or *design*.

With thanks for your space

Yours,

ALLEN PRINGLE.

SELBY, LENNOX Co., ONT. }  
March 30, 1881.

\* Haeckel.