

[From *The Times*, January 26, 1892]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—The point raised by Mr. Anderson in *The Times* of to-day was brought to my notice years ago ; and if I had been able to discover that it had anything to do with the main question at issue, I should have dealt with it at that time.

Mr. Gladstone's general contention was that the so-called "Mosaic" cosmogony has been confirmed by science ; and I had, more particularly, to meet his specific assertion that the order of the appearance of animals laid down in the first chapter of Genesis had "been so affirmed in our time by natural science that it may be taken as a demonstrated conclusion and established fact." It was agreed on both sides that, according to Genesis (i., 20-25), "creeping things and beasts of the earth" and "every thing that creepeth on the ground" appeared on the sixth day, while "winged fowl" had come into existence on the fifth day ; and it was not disputed that "winged fowl" included birds and "creeping things," reptiles. Consequently, if my assertion that according to natural science birds appeared on the earth after reptiles is correct (and it has not been challenged), it follows that the teachings of natural science, so far from affirming the order given in Genesis, diametrically contradict it.

I am sure Mr. Anderson cannot desire to "mislead the public" whatever it may be my misfortune to have done ; and therefore he will share my desire to get this matter clearly settled before we go into the subordinate, and, so far as the main issue is concerned, unimportant Levitical question. Does he admit the existence of the contradiction I have pointed out or does he not ? And if he does not admit it, will he be so good as to give his reasons for taking that course ?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. H. HUXLEY.

Eastbourne, January 24.