

in Gen. 7, 11:—"The fountains of the great deep were broken up." This was to assist the deluge. According to the Dr. there is a mistake in this passage. It ought to be:—"The fountains of the great *atmosphere* were broken up."

Although the Dr. admits that science here is utterly helpless, yet he seems resolved to have something definite, as to the nature of this "Desolate Void," and accordingly he thus writes:—

"Some of the details of the Mosaic vision of the primeval chaos may be supplied, by the probabilities established by physics and chemistry."

The Dr. has previously made the vision, that of a seer, who flourished many ages before either Moses or Abraham,—perhaps Adam,—but now he credits it to Moses. He proceeds and says:—

"Our first idea of the earth would be a vast vaporous ball, recently spun out from the general mass of vapors, forming the nebula which once represented the solar system. This huge cloud, whirling its annual round about the still vaporous centre of the system, would consist of all the materials now constituting the solid rocks, as well as those of the seas and atmosphere, their atoms kept asunder by the force of heat. * * * At length a liquid nucleus is formed, while upon this are being precipitated showers of condensing matter, from the still vast atmosphere, to add to its volume. As this process advances, a new brilliancy is given to the feebly shining vapors, by the incandescence of solid particles, in the upper layers of the atmosphere. * * * But at length, by further cooling, this brilliancy is lost, and the still fluid globe is surrounded by a vast cloudy pall, in which condensing vapors gather in huge dark masses, and amid terrible electric explosions, pour in constantly increasing acid corrosive rains, upon the heated nucleus, combining with its materials, or again flashing into vapors. Thus darkness, dense and gross, would settle upon the vaporous deep, and would continue for long ages, until the atmosphere could be finally cleared of its superfluous vapors. In the mean time, a crust of slag, or cinder, has been forming upon the molten nucleus. Broken again and again by the heaving of the seething mass, it at length sets permanently; and finally allows some portion of the liquid rain, condensed upon it, to remain as a boiling ocean. Then began the reign of the waters, under which the first stratified rocks were laid down, by the deposit of earthy and saline matter, suspended, or dissolved, by the heated sea. Such is the picture which science presents to us of the genesis of the earth, and so far as we can judge, from his words, such must have been the picture presented to the mental vigor of the ancient Seer of creation. * ** In conclusion, the reader will perceive how this reticence of the author