

studied, and who conscientiously accepts the teachings of both theology and science.

Science, of course, should be primarily an independent study. Scientists have no time and little inclination usually to study theology, and neither have theologians, as a rule, the opportunities to become masters of science. When science has demonstrated a *fact* there can be no gainsaying it; it will over-ride any theological dogma; but a scientific *theory* does nothing of the kind. For instance science has *proved* that our world was not made in six days of 24 hours, as it used to be believed, and theologians accept the *fact* and find it in no way inconsistent with their Bible.

Science has *proved* that evolution has taken place, and is taking place, in both the animal and vegetable world, and theologians accept these facts also.

But science has *not yet proved* that evolution is the cause of *all* the various forms of life we have to-day, and it has *not yet proved*, and I am confident never can prove, that any life can originate *of itself*. Let it prove even the former of these propositions, let it trace back every animal and vegetable to one original speck of protoplasm, and even then science will not do away with the necessity of a creator."

Mr. Taylor went on to explain how Dr. Bastian's theory of abiogenesis had been completely upset by the experiments of Prof. Tyndall, and then said: You will see therefore that there is no necessary conflict between the theory of evolution and theology. Both parties (the theologians and the scientists) are often rather unreasonable. Theologians have sometimes been tempted I know to dogmatise unnecessarily, but on the other hand scientific men are constantly asking them to swallow pounds of theory with every few grains of fact. I for one am ready to accept the facts, and I believe that the principles of evolution have been conclusively proved, but I do not feel called upon to accept at present all the extravagant theories that the more extreme disciples of Darwinism have put forward.

In conclusion, my excuse for introducing this subject into an address on conchology must be the fact that from this science evolutionists have drawn some of their strongest arguments, while in it also they have met with some of their greatest difficulties.