

was compelled to be *silent* under the overwhelming nature of the evidences of Swedenborg's Divine mission. All who have since taken the same course have retired from the controversy with the same success. They have felt that though there may be enough apparent weakness in the system to invite attack, there is hidden strength enough to repel it. The truths there which appear helpless from their very innocence, will be found to exert an influence of which the mightiest may be well afraid. Their claims are not the claims of a sect, but of a new dispensation. They are truths descending from God out of Heaven, and accompanied by the living voice of the Lord—*Behold I make all things new.*

Hitherto it has been argument enough to meet the claims of Swedenborg with ridicule; but such an argument is no longer available in the world, and consequently the world has given it up. The people who hold these views lately had a convention in London, and the proceedings were reported by the leading morning journals, as proceedings not to be despised. The New Church was represented at that meeting by an order of intelligence not inferior to any in England, and by distinguished individuals from Germany, Sweden, France, Spain, and the United States; while communications were received even from the Indian Empire. Each of these countries is a centre, from which rays are beginning to diverge in all directions, while the light of the new Jerusalem will mingle with and temper the discordant elements of a world in ruins. This Church has no retrograde motion; its truths never die out, in minds where they have once fairly lodged; they are as imperishable as the source from whence they come. After struggling against conflicting elements for nearly a century, these truths are now taking a position and holding a tone of language, which they who know them best are the least willing to question or to oppose. And as if to support these claims, and as an evidence to *some* minds of their reality, the philosophical writings of Swedenborg are now in course of translation from the original Latin. In these writings are contained all the principles of natural science; and the critical journals of the day have already begun to accord their testimony to the wonderful truths therein developed. They are truths of the most profound nature, acquired by the deepest research and most exact science, supported by the severest induction, and are confirmed and established by a system of the most merciless dialectics.

But I have not to do at present with the philosophical but the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. The former, indeed, are evidences of what the human faculties may perform, when trained to the pursuits of natural science; but the latter are evidences of the same highly trained faculties, acting under the influence of Divine illumination. The one was preparatory to the other in the order of Providence; but these departments of knowledge are separated from each other by distinct degrees in the human mind. It is not competent for the natural to ascend to the spiritual degree, though all things, on the natural plane, are confirmed and established by the higher evidences of Divine illumination.