preparation for the future. An eye-witness at any particular stage in the progress of creation might be able to see merely the fact of arrangement and order. But one who could extend his vision along the line of progress, would discern in addition, that the earlier stages were being shaped in such a way, as prepared for something further in the later. In this was manifested an increased development in supernatural agency. The Bible tells that after the appearance of dry land living organisms were brought forth by the Word of God, successively plants and animals. Science recognizes a real advance in the history of creation, with the beginning of life, while absolutely silent respecting the mystery of its origin. Facts from nature also sustain the sequence of plant and animal life, even though as yet no fossil plants have been found in the oldest rocks. Life when it appeared was a new thing in creation, and the fact that it was able to sustain itself, sufficiently proves that the earlier stages, through which nature passed, fitted it for the sustenance of life. Geology can now describe with measurable certainty those age-long processes by which the various necessities of life were gradually brought about. Light, heat, moisture, the sediment of the rocks, entered into multitudes of correlations, such in character, that living organisms found a fitting abode. The appearance and the continuance of life, shews that the previous ages of inorganic activity had not been purposeless, but were the development of a mighty plan, whose fulfilment is partly realized in the teeming life of ocean, earth, and air. Moreover, a purpose working towards its fulfilment is seen also in the phenomena of life itself, and the higher the character of life, the more clearly it is discernable. A living being contains an apparatus of organs, sometimes very numerous, differing from one another, subserving various uses, but all co-operating in maintaining and reproducing the collective life of the organism. The fact that these organs are all unified in the production of one result, declares that this result, future though its actual occurrence be, must have been ideally present conditioning their formation. A still wider view justifies a similar assertion with regard to the constitution of nature as a whole. The kingdom of inorganic nature, and the two organic kingdoms, are so adapted to one another, and possess such reciprocal action, that the continuance of the course of nature is secured. This steady pursuit of a purpose, whose fulfilment is in the future, demands a cause, equally with the existence and