

he can, all unperceived, take feloniously as much more mind as his necessities may demand." "Being engaged in developing solar rays, he contrives to wind solar rays and mind together, until at length he reaches molluscs, and he still continues the process until, lo and behold! out of the first patch of star dust we have evolved the powers of a Shakespeare."* Thus, even to a greater extent than Darwin, he assumes whatever he requires for his system, stigmatising whatever is contrary to his assumptions as absurd or "unthinkable," a favorite word with him often applied, but of which the application may in many cases be denied, and as he assumes or invents his premises he can have no difficulty in arriving at his desired conclusion, which, of course, cannot be any more certain than the premises which he has boldly assumed.

The extent to which mere hypotheses are assumed, as proved, by the upholders of this system of evolution as the true exposition of the mode in which man has reached his present state, physical, intellectual and moral, is almost incredible, and can only be explained by the supposition that, having made up their minds that this theory could account for the condition of all existing things, they have closed their eyes so as not to perceive the true character of their reasoning, and have ingeniously suggested supposable methods of nullifying the force of the objections. We may admire the perseverance and the remarkable intellectual power displayed by the originators of such a system, notwithstanding their too obvious assumptions and fallacies; and if we were left without any clue to the mystery of creation and the various matters most deeply interesting to man, of which they have treated, we should owe them a debt of gratitude for their arduous labours, notwithstanding their failure to produce a system that will bear investigation as to its logical sequence. But *we* have already not merely a clue, but a clear, definite statement, requiring no assumptions. The eternal existence of matter is as unthinkable, to use their own word, as is its creation. But it is an undoubted fact that matter exists, and although the change from nothing to something is inconceivable, we know that it must have been effected, and the only solution of this problem is to be found in the recognition of mind, in other words of an intelligent Being, as the Power, of which the

*Ground's paper on Spencer, p. 18.