

out this inquiry, we must go back to what we saw within the plant in the form of little round globules. We called these sporules, or primordial seeds of new plants. In color they are light green. On watching these we find that by and by they become enlarged, and the green substance within them assumes the form of sporules. This enlargement goes on until the mother cell is filled up with a larger or smaller number of what we now call spores, or gonidia; that is, secondary reproductive granules. Sometimes, too, these spores will divide into two, three, and four parts, each forming an independent spore. In these we see a dense spot or nucleus, as if it were the yoke of a little egg. Thus they go on growing and multiplying, until they burst the walls that confine them. Then they rush out into the water, a merry group, like children rushing tumultuously out of school. Forsaking utterly the old mother cell as no longer of any use, they begin an independent existence. They are now found to develop a new set of organs, namely, cillia, or hair-like arms, which vibrate with great rapidity, with an involuntary motion, and carry the spores hither and thither through the water. These spores, too, assume in course of time a great variety of transformations of form and color. They have been observed to pass through about sixty different aspects at this stage of their growth, with the cillia variously arranged in groups. Finally, after spending the sportive time of youth in various guises and travels, they settle down on some leaf, or blade of grass, or stone, or bit of wood; and rounded into perfect form, smiling, ripe and rosy, they go on their course of life and work rejoicing. Thus further have we described the development of our plant, and how it reproduces generations of its own kind.

The position of our plant in the great vegetable kingdom is very low, nearly the bottom of the scale. It is placed by botanists in the sub-kingdom of the Algæ, the order Globuliferæ, the family Protoceceæ, the genus *Protococcus*, and the

species *P. pluniatilis* or *P. Nivalis*. It is a northern plant, found generally over Canada; but in greatest profusion in the Province of Quebec. As the *red snow* plant, it has been frequently seen among the Alps of Switzerland, the Pyrenees, and the Apennines. In 1808, it covered a whole section of country in the mountains of Italy, to the depth of about six inches. *Red snow* was also discovered by Captain Ross in Baffin's Bay, covering tracts of some miles in extent, and in some places to the depth of 10 or 12 feet. Our plant is also nearly allied to that one which covers the waters of the Red Sea, frequently as far as the eye can reach, and has given to that storied sea its peculiar name. For its origin we may go back to the very dawn of creation, when life in its lowest forms was first introduced into the universal waters, and long before the fish of the sea, the fowls of the air, the beasts of the land, or man, the lord of all, had emerged out of the eternal ideal in the divine mind.

What a curious, ancient little piece of living mechanism it is! How wonderfully it is formed! How beneficently it works! What beauty it possesses! These be thy handy works, O Lord, and they all praise thy wisdom, skill, and power! If thou carest for these little specks of life, how much more for immortal man, who is the chief and crown of thy glorious creation!

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Original.

"NOT THE RIGHTEOUS, BUT SINNERS."

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BY JOHN J. PROCTER.

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Comrades, that fight in life's desperate battle,  
Marching in mud and mire, laden with care;  
Hearing the cries that rise over war's rattle,  
Blind with the smoke, and confused with its glare;

Though ye be stricken sore, lo! where the standards soar,  
Faith, Hope, and Charity, Duty and Right,

Close round each precious flag; though it be but a rag,  
Tattered and rent, bear it on in the fight;