

this and following similar laws there is evolution. Physiology tells us that each individual is developed from a "microscopic spherule of protoplasm" according to law and by means of a force which is immanent. That is evolution in the biological department. And the evolutionist contends that this process is not confined to one department, but pervades the whole of the created universe.

So far as the inorganic realm is concerned the battle has been fought and won by evolution, and the faith of no one has been seriously disturbed. Time was when it was supposed that by the fiat of Omnipotence every thing was created directly, suddenly and at once. The mountains rockribbed and hoary, old ocean gray and melancholy, the rivers that move in majesty, the thundering waterfalls and gentle slopes and fertile valleys, all were supposed to have been made directly at a single stroke, as a boy would make his pies of mud. But science had scarcely then been born. We are now told that these have been formed by a process slow and gradual, the mountains have grown, the seas and rivers have changed from a less to a more perfect form, and we see the process going on to-day. Rocks are rotting down to soils and soils consolidating into rocks and old earth is changing, as it has been changing for millions of years in its onward upward movement until it has become a fit habitation for animals and for man. The change is gradual. There is nothing abrupt or catastrophic, but all the process of evolution.

Now the contention is that the *organic* universe is likewise fashioned according to the same laws, that plants simple and coarse came first and developed through all stages of complexity to the present conditions of the vegetable kingdom, that the invertebrate animals were the next, and fishes, amphibious reptiles, and possibly birds, before the earliest mammals appeared. Then, long after, came man, the last and grandest of the series, but fashioned, too, so far as his physical nature is concerned, according to the same law. Concerning the origin of his spiritual nature, which differentiates him completely from the lower animals, evolutionists are divided in their opinion, some contending that a special creative fiat on the part of God was necessary, but all are agreed that man is on the highest plane, created by