

THE TWO REVELATIONS.

THERE are two records of God's creative energy. One is the record of the unfolding of *man* and of the race under the inspiration of God's nature; this is a mere sketch; of the ancient periods of man there is almost nothing known. The other of these records or revelations—if you choose to call them so—pertains to the physical globe, and reveals the divine thought through the unfolding history of *matter*; and this is the older.

So we have two revelations: God's thought in the evolution of matter, and God's thought in the evolution of mind; and these are the Old Testament and the New—not in the usual sense of those terms, but in an appropriate scientific use of them.

In that great book of the Old there is a record of progress, order, and result of God's thought in regard to the globe as a habitation of man. Though not every stage, yet the chief stages of preparation of this dwelling for man have been discovered, and are now being deciphered and read. The crude, primitive material of the world of matter, the igneous condition, the aqueous stages, the dynamic and chemical periods, the gradual formation of the soil, the mountain-building, the dawn of life, vegetable and animal, the stages of their progress—are not all these things written in the scientific revelation of God's history of creation? When I reflect upon the range of the invisible and silent God, with the vast and well-nigh incomprehensible stretch of time, and of His compassionate waiting and working through illimitable ages and periods, compared with which a million years as marked by the clock are not seconds; when I reflect that the silent stones and buried strata contain the record of God's working, and that the globe itself is a sublime history of God as an engineer, and architect, and as master-builder, I cannot but marvel at the indifference with which good men have regarded this stupendous revelation of ages past, and especially at the assaults made by Christian men upon scientific men, who are bringing to light the long-hidden record of God's revelation in the material world.