

and muriatic gas combine to form sal-ammoniac ; the particles become visible, and hang like smoke. Now, remove the cloud, give a smart sudden blow to the opposite end of the box : the blow causes the contents to issue as a circular vortex ring, which moves about like an independent solid. If the infinitude around your space were perfectly without friction, that vortex-ring would move about for ever ; and the portion of fluid containing the smoke would remain for ever the same set of particles.

In fancies of this kind men of science, helped by experiments, obtain conceptions as to the framing of worlds. Sir William Thomson supposes that the universe is full of a perfect fluid, something not like matter, yet really matter ; and that the property of rotation may be the basis of whatever appeals to our senses as matter. Does this mechanical theory afford a natural explanation of the origin and continuance of things apart from the supernatural ? Certainly not. As in experiment there must be will and power, so in creation. The equilibrium of a perfect fluid, if there was one, could not be self-disturbed. The power imparting the energy of motion came from without, acting as a supernatural within. Apart from it could be no motion of any kind, no vortex-ring.

Science warrants our belief that existing worlds are not the first nor the last. Probably, also, there are other and more wonderful worlds than we know. Our view of things extends but a hand's-breadth. No part of nature was complete in itself : it rested on something infinitely beyond. Present nature is not complete in itself : it came from an immeasurable past, it enters an illimitable future. The whole of existing nature is inadequate to explain any, even the smallest part of it. The smallest part, fully explained, would account for the whole. Every material thing and state is passing into other states and different forms. Language cannot express those plans of the worlds which science and thought reveal. The seen is only a small and temporary phase of immeasurable changes. Innumerable changes, wrought by energy from the Supernatural, are a prelude to more glorious manifestations. Every moment of time represents the work of Eternity in an