

tion, which, from an orderly arrangement of facts, enables us to infer a principle. The latter, or Baconic method, belongs peculiarly to the domain of science. Indeed, science consists in the careful observance of the phenomena of nature and the orderly arrangement of the facts, and after great research in this direction, in inferring the laws that govern them, with ample provision for modification or extension as other observed phenomena may require. These inferred principles should not be regarded as anything else than hypotheses, till such time as they may have become thoroughly tested.

Evolutionists reverse this order. They build up hypotheses from, at least, a partial observance of phenomena, and then search for facts to support them, and rely largely, as Professor Tyndall intimates, on the "picturing power of the mind," or, as Mr. Herbert Spencer puts it, "having seen reason to *suppose*," and on this foundation of quicksand they proceed to build up the theory of Evolution. Professor Huxley in a similar way uses his beautiful illustration of a curve, whose elements have been determined in a world of observation and experiment, being prolonged into an antecedent world, we there, also, infer its true characteristics.

Far be it from us to ignore the use of the imagination in science. But when it comes to take the place of facts, and to be the foundation principally relied on to build a system that is calculated to dislodge the received beliefs of Christianity, "it is surely time," as Dr. McCosh pungently remarks, "to lay a restraint of a stringent kind upon the use, or rather abuse, of it in science." Dr. Charles Elam says:—"It is somewhat difficult to realize the idea" that this system of philosophy "is but a figment of the imagination, in direct support of which not one single fact in the whole range of natural history or palæontology can be adduced."

Of the whole school, as has been already said, Mr. Darwin adheres most closely to the true scientific method. He gives many most wonderful and interesting illustrations of the law of development; of the improvement of a species by the "survival of the fittest," and of the gradual ascent to higher types of life. We venture to suggest that this is an evidence of design, which leads us to infer that there must have been a Designer who has worked by