

spectators of the subsequent parts of the work. Thus the Almighty accosts Job—*Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding, who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it? Where-upon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner-stone thereof, when the morning stars sang together, and all the angelical sons of God shouted for joy?*

What a stupendous work is creation! Truly it is a work worthy of God. With what facility does he accomplish it! He said, *Let there be light; and there was light.* With the Almighty, to say is to command; and to command is to accomplish. He speaks, and he acts, in a manner worthy of himself.—In what a beautiful order does he proceed in creation! In it, how conspicuous is gradation! From the lowest, it advances to the highest order of created beings. From dead matter it rises to vegetative; from vegetative to sensitive, from sensitive to rational life. Here are no chasms; all the parts are admirably connected to make up one universal whole. Here is one chain of beings from the lowest up to the highest; from the insect to the archangel. Nor does the scale of creation advance by leaps; but only by gentle steps. One rises, in a gradual manner, above another; dead matter, unorganized earth, minerals, vegetables, insects, reptiles, fishes, birds, beasts, men, angels. In all the works of Deity, there is a visible gradation; a glorious progression, from a less to a more perfect state. In the three-fold œconomy of creation, providence, and grace, the observation of the wisest of men is verified, *the end of a thing is better than the beginning thereof.* Having made a variety of species of inferior beings, and, in every respect, fitted the world for his reception and accommodation, God formed that superior being, who, as vice-gerent of his great creator, was to have dominion over all the inferior creatures in this lower world.

The creation of man, as the last and best of the
works