

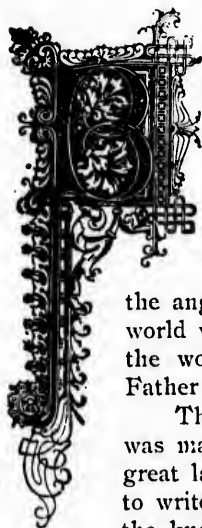
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THE BEAUTIFUL STORY.

CHAPTER I.

THE STORY OF CREATION.

Genesis.



BEFORE our beautiful world was brought into existence by the command of God, there was neither sun, moon, stars nor living thing; yet there was a heavenly host, and the King of kings sat on His great white throne and received the praises of those radiant beings, the cherubim and seraphim (cherubs and seraphs) who, after the creation, became messengers between God and man, and guardians at the gates of Paradise. The Bible does not tell us much about the angels that were born in the celestial city, nor of God, before the world was fashioned by His mighty hand, but is chiefly a record of the works of the Almighty and His relation to mankind as the Father of all.

The first story in the Bible is that of creation—how the world was made. As there were no men on the earth until after God's great labor had been accomplished, no one would have been qualified to write a history of creation had not God inspired some man with the knowledge necessary thereto. And this is what He did. In the days of Moses there were none, not even the wisest, who knew how the world came into being, or how it had once been drowned for its wickedness. Desirous that His children should be enlightened upon the manner in which the world was spoken into existence, God endowed Moses with the gift of revelation, by which he was enabled to describe things he had never seen or heard of, for it was indeed God who directed his hand in the writing, so that Moses was but the instrument, or the pen, which God used to tell the story of creation. It was thus that the first five books (called the *Pentateuch*) of the Bible were written.

The beginning of God's labor was the creation of the earth, and of heaven, which was the air, or atmosphere, round about the earth, for heaven itself already existed. We still call the blue vault overhead, studded with the bright constellation of stars, the heavens, and it was this heaven, in contradistinction from that which is the abode of God, that is thus referred to by Moses. The