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THE GOSPEL OF THE CREATION.

I.

At this present moment, when science and religion are supposed to be by many, antagonistic in their conceptions of the manner in which this world was created; and when in the strife of pen and tongue, our ideas become confused amid the convolutions of an apparently interminable argument; it is restful to draw aside from the dispute as to what actually happened, and review, from the standpoint of the religious, the actual, beneficent effects which flow from a belief in a creation.

To make these benefits plain, and to show that they really are so, it will be necessary for us to study the probable effects which would result from full acceptance of certain theories of the causes of the multifold existence we see around us. And also to undertake a general review of what may be termed "creations," that is, certain definite advances in human thought and action which may be called, in a secondarily sense, "creative acts."

As, however, we cannot rightly judge of the effect of any teaching, till what teaching it is we are reviewing is understood, we must first examine the various accounts of creation. And as at the present time we are chiefly concerned, with the atomic and kindred theories, it will be as well to place before our minds a general outline of these most advanced explanations of the why and wherefore of all things created.

Let us then imagine ourselves carried back into a past so remote that billions of years may space between it and the present time. We stand spectators in a chaos indescribable; witnessing the fitful eddies of the gas, mist, or steam, whatever it may be, that lies around us. These same inane circlings requiring centuries of effort for their accomplishment.

As time flies on the circlings faster grow, and the law of centrifugal force coming into existence, at last the hitherto homogeneous mass, breaks up into smaller bodies, in which the same process of gyration goes on. We follow one of these nebulous aggregations, known now to us as the solid earth, and we notice, that probably in a similar manner to that in which soups and porridges continually stirred thicken, this mass, after many thousands of years toiling round and round, has thickened, and shews evidence of crystalization at its various centres of force. And so the work goes on until we have the germ of a world, self-created; the beginning of the frame of this mighty and

A GOD-SPEED TO THE SNOW.

March is slain. The keen winds fly,
 Nothing more is thine to do,
 April kisses thee good by,
 Thou must haste and follow too;
 Silent friend that guarded well
 Withered things to make us glad,
 Shyest friend that could not tell
 Half the kindly thought he had:
 Haste thee, speed thee, oh kind snow,
 Down the dripping valleys go,
 From the fields and gleaming meadows
 Where the slaying hours behold thee;
 From the forests whose slim shadows
 Brown and leafless cannot fold thee;
 Through the cedar lands aflame
 With gold light that cleaves and quivers,
 Songs that winter cannot tame
 Drone of pines and laugh of rivers;
 May thy passing joyous be
 To thy father the great sea,
 See the sun is getting stronger
 Earth hath need of thee no longer;
 Go, kind snow, God speed to thee.

—ARCHIBALD LAMPMAN.

Cease to lament for that thou canst not help,
 And study help for that which thou lamentest.
 Time is the nurse and breeder of all good.