

under very different auspices. We cannot treat them with too sincere respect even while rejecting them. They are no rash and hastily formed fancies of a shallow theorist, but the earnest convictions of an eminent English naturalist of great and varied experience, set forth as deductions based on a continuous series of observations and experiments, extending over upwards of twenty years; and heralded by the favourable testimony of some of the most cautious and discriminating among his scientific contemporaries. Nevertheless, the time which has been already allowed for the critical investigation of such evidence as is advanced to sustain his comprehensive hypothesis, has only tended to discredit his transmutation theory, and add assurance to the convictions of the scientific believer in the idea of creation as the only satisfactory solution of the succession of life. Science has achieved wondrous triumphs, but life is a thing it can neither create nor account for, by mere physics. Nor can we assume even that the whole law of life can be embraced within the process of induction, as carried out by an observer so limited as man is, in relation to the sequence of time, and to the cosmical changes by which so much of the record is erased. Darwin, indeed, builds largely on hypotheses constructed to supply the gaps in the geological record; but whilst welcoming every new truth which enlarges our conception of the cosmic unity, all nature still says as plainly to us as to the Idumean patriarch: "Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty to perfection?"

Assuredly it is in no spirit of sceptical presumption that Darwin has set forth his views; and I heartily accord with the claim advanced by Professor Huxley, that the arguments of an experienced and profound naturalist on pure questions of science, must be met on scientific grounds alone. But when science claims not only to disclose the nature of all living and extinct organizations, but to determine their primary origin, it is difficult even on purely scientific grounds, to avoid reasserting the truth which all nature audibly affirms, that creation owes its existence to a Creator. And at every appearance of new organic forms in the geological strata of the earth, science sacrifices no jot or tittle of its true dignity, when owning a higher law, it admits that He who, in the beginning, created the heavens and the earth, has in like manner put forth the same creative power at every successive origination of species.

The geologist in reasoning on the succession of life, has hitherto