

Divine power were the only alternative to account for the successive introduction of new groups of organisms upon the earth's surface. "The two first explanations"—(that of the displacement of contemporaneous faunas—*deplacement des faunas contemporaines*—and that of transmutation,) says Pictet, "being inadmissible, there remains the third, which is known under the name of the theory of successive creations, because it admits the direct intervention of creative power at the commencement of each geological epoch."

Professor Owen is more decided. "We are able," says he, "to demonstrate that the different epochs of the earth were attended with corresponding changes of organic structure; and that in all these instances of change the organs, still illustrating the unchanging fundamental types, were, as far as we could comprehend their use, exactly those best suited to the functions of the being. Hence we not only show intelligence evoking means adapted to the end, but at successive times and periods producing a change of mechanism adapted to a change in external conditions. Thus the highest generalizations in the science of organic bodies, like the Newtonian laws of universal matter, lead to the unequivocal conviction of a great First Cause, which is certainly not mechanical."

With still stronger emphasis does Agassiz speak of the origin of animals. "All these beings," says he, "do not exist in consequence of the continued agency of physical causes, but have made their successive appearance upon the earth by the immediate intervention of the Creator."

To the unsophisticated mind, untrammelled by theories, the inevitable conclusion from all these facts is, that the successive appearance of numerous groups of animals and plants on the globe, forms so many distinct examples of miracles of creation.—For in the view of all except the advocates of the Development Hypothesis, they demanded a force above and beyond nature in her ordinary course, and this is the essential thing in a miracle. What believer in the Bible ever doubted that the creation of man and contemporary races was a miracle in this sense? Indeed what stronger evidence of miraculous intervention have we anywhere than the creation of organic beings, especially of man? and his intro-

duction is one of the facts of geological history. But the mere creation of these successive races is not the whole of the matter. For they were nicely adapted to the altered condition of things at the different epochs. They showed, also, a gradual elevation in the scale of being, as we rise higher and higher. If it was not a miracle to introduce succeeding groups under such circumstances, that is, a specific divine intervention, then we despair of finding a miracle anywhere.—*Bibliotheca Sacra*.

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### FAITH.

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What is the whole history of God's saints in every age but a record of men and women who obtained a good report by faith? What is the simplest story of all from Abel downwards but a narrative of redeemed sinners who believed, and so were blessed? By faith they embraced promises. By faith they lived. By faith they walked. By faith they endured hardships. By faith they looked to an unseen Saviour, and good things yet to come. By faith they battled with the world, the flesh, and the devil. By faith they overcame, and got safe home. Of this goodly company the Virgin Mary was proving herself one. No wonder that Elizabeth said, "Blessed is she that believed."

Do we know anything of this precious faith? This, after all, is the question that concerns us. Do we know anything of the faith of God's elect, the faith which is of the operation of God? (Titus i. 2.—Col. ii. 12.) Let us never rest till we know it by experience. Once knowing it, let us never cease to pray that our faith may grow exceedingly. Better a thousand times be rich in faith than rich in gold.—Gold will be worthless in the unseen land to which we are all travelling. Faith will be owned in that world before God the Father and the holy angels. When the great white throne is set, and the books are opened, when the dead are called from their graves, and receiving their final sentence, the value of faith will at length be fully known. Men will learn then, if they never learned before, how true are the words, "Blessed are they that believed."