

discussion be clearly defined and then strictly adhered to. Let us begin with the word "Nature." Latin *natura* signifies the sum of all that has come to the birth and indicates the result of the forces at work in the universe; but it is quite improper to speak of it as if it were itself a force. Darwin indeed protests that he so understood the term; and if he used it otherwise it was only figuratively. Yet he constantly employed it as if it were a persistent agent, always and everywhere at work. And whatever reserve of meaning he retained in his own mind, when thus employing the word, there can be no doubt as to the significance put upon it by the larger portion of his readers. The term is constantly used in the loose sense. It has been pointed out how the phrases which Darwin made use of to indicate the method by which he conceived species to be generated, "Natural Selection," "Survival of the fittest," "Struggle for life," convey to the mind of the ordinary reader that the creature thus in issue is a sentient being, planning a course for itself and doing conscious battle on its own behalf. Darwin says he did not mean that, but he uses language and arguments as if he did, and certainly misleads his unthinking followers. "Law" is another word which is used loosely and made to do large service in the discussion of life's problems. Now, it, too, properly employed, only indicates the method in which force acts, it is not a force itself. It is usual to speak of the law of gravitation. But it is so employed to show how the force acts which we call gravitation, to conceal our ignorance, but it is not the acting force. The orbit in which the planets revolve around the sun, or the moon about the earth, is found to be mathematical, and Kepler calculated the facts in the case, and his calculations being found good by astronomical observers are called laws.

But they did not disclose the force by which the planets are guided in their courses. Are we to believe that the earth and the sun began their mutual career by