

expected no less, if they are to be traced to the energies of one Omnipresent and Pervading Will. Let me however, remind you that the phenomena of Nature are not due to the operation of one invariable force, but to the *variable* combination of *invariable* forces; to the mutual adjustment and balance of forces, in fact. A most interesting and fruitful field would open to us here, had we time to enter on it. The orbits of the heavenly bodies in space; the properties of the air we breathe; the qualities of water; the marvellous power of numbers in the laboratory of Nature, making, as chemistry shows, of the same elements differently combined—a nutritious food—or a deadly poison; yea, all the realms of Nature, so far as Science has explored them, would supply us with examples innumerable of the wonderful adjustment of forces, of the marvellous balance of law,—an adjustment upon which not only our own happiness and enjoyment of life depends, but an adjustment involving the very safety of the Universe. A study of the adjustment of forces, of the balance of law, which is found to prevail in every department of Nature and to regulate the phenomena of the material Universe would, I think, lead us again and again to exclaim with St. Paul, “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”

There is then a Theory of Forces which we can hold, and yet retain with even stronger tenacity our belief in the Living God; and so, too, there is a Theory of Evolution which will commend itself to the most devout Christian Theists. Surely Evolution implies an Evolver, and such an Evolver must be Divine. The very magnitude, the continuity, and the certainty involved in the progress and results of Evolution must comprehend an All-Wise Evolver. Abolish if you can the dogma of Special Creation, and substitute for it what you call Evolution. Employ all the science at your command to establish it, and after all, and by all, you establish the Mighty Evolver. Of Him you cannot rid this earth; of Him you cannot rid this Universe. All harmonious and orderly Evolution, all Evolution