



LECTURE XV.

THE EVOLUTION THEORY.

Gen. i. 27 : " So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him ; male and female created He them."

Mark x. 6 : " But from the beginning of the Creation God made them male and female."

ONE of the most fertile topics of discussion bearing upon religion at the present day, is what is called the Evolution Theory. It may be thus explained: That, so far from the Mosaic narrative of creation in which our forefathers always believed, being true and reliable, man was not created by an immediate act of divine energy—but that the whole human race has been evolved through a long process of ages from lower forms of creation; and that by the law of natural selection, and a lengthened process of development extending through past ages, the animal which Moses asserts to have been created originally in the image of God, sprang from protoplasm or elemental germs, through the intermediate stages of the man-like ape, ascidian, mollusc, monad, fire-mist, electricity, star-dust, or other molecu^l_æ forces !

Not only is there no direct or positive proof of such a theory ; but there are many fatal objections to the doctrine of Evolution, as a means of accounting for the introduction and succession of vegetable or animal life. The subject possesses the highest interest to students of theology, and indeed to all who profess to believe in the testimony of inspiration, in so far as it bears more or less directly upon the evidences of Christianity. We do not say that the Creator could not or might not have pro-