

the facts and duties of religion? We may not be able to say when and where, but possibly we can tell how, viz., in the progressive working of God. To produce a will or a person seems to be the end in view of the whole process, and at last it is gained . . . When the result is reached, the conditions under which it was produced may be relaxed. And so we have man—a free will, himself a force acting in creative ways. If it be asked where he gets his free will, the answer is, from the same source from which matter gets its force—God. He may get it *through* nature; but he gets it *from* God working by nature. Hence, when we come, to discuss the problems of religion,—duty, conscience, faith, prayer, reverence, love, we are at full liberty if we see fit to turn our back upon that uniformity of nature which is called a law. Man stands before the Eternal One, and not before a method of nature. Nature is all about him, but his real relation is to God. His moral qualities may have been evolved through natural process, but they do not originate there . . . In closing this essay, in which I have attempted merely to show that the Christian Faith is not endangered by evolution, and to separate it from a narrow school of thought with which it is usually associated, it may not be amiss to indicate in a categorical way the lines upon which further study should be pursued. First, the respects in which evolution as a necessary process in the natural and brute worlds does not wholly apply to man. 1. Instinct yields to conscious intelligence. Second, The struggle for existence yields to a moral law of preservation, and so is reversed. 3. Intelligence takes the place of natural selection. 4. The will comes into supremacy, and so there is a complete person; man, instead of being wholly under force, becomes himself a force. 5. Man attains full reflective consciousness. 6. Conscience takes the place of desire. 7. The rudimentary and instinctive virtues of the brutes become moral under will and conscience. 8. Man comes into a consciousness of God. 9. Man's history is in freedom. 10. Man recognizes and realizes the spirit. 2. Contrasting phenomena of evolution under necessity, and evolution under freedom: 1. Man changes and tends to create his environment; achieves it largely, and so may improve and prolong it. The brute adapted itself to environment, but had no power over it. 2. Man progresses under freedom. The brute progressed under laws and environment; man, under will and moral principles of action. 3. Man thinks reflectively, systematizes knowledge, and reasons upon it; the brute does not, except in a rudimentary and forecasting way. 4. Man has dominion; the brute is a subject. 5. Man worships, having become conscious of the Infinite One; the brute does not. 6. Man is the end of creation, and the final object of it; the brute is a step in the progress. *The end of a process cannot be identified with the process.*

ST. NICHOLAS for May contains among other good things the following: Frontispiece, "In the Spring-time—when Shakespeare was a boy;" "May Song," a poem; "The Girl's Tricycle Club;" "Morning Glories," verses; A continuation of "Little Lord Fauntleroy," and also of "George Washington;" "Spring Beauties," a poem; "How Conrad Lost his School Books;" "A search for the Lace-leaf;" "The Caricature Plant;" "Vegetable Clothing;" "St. Nicholas dog stories: A clever little yellow dog—a dog that could count—a clever sheep dog—A story of two buckets;" "The smallest circus in the world;" "Ruck-a-bye," a poem; "Keeping the Cream of One's Reading;" "Wonders of the Alphabet;" "Bubble Blowing;" and, funniest of all, the quarterly instalment of "The Brownies," illustrated. This time these funny little chaps have a good time, with many tumbles; on roller skates. The number is an excellent one.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER (Decorator and Furnisher Co., 30 and 32 East 14th st., New York city) is a most elegant artistic publication, and the publishers seem to spare no pains nor expense in efforts to make it superior to everything of the kind published, especially in the illustrations, which are very fine. In the May number we find "Some Philadelphia Studios," fourth paper, with a charming illustration; "Economical Furnishings;" "The Best Way to Move;" "Some Furnishing Suggestions;" "Work for Ladies;" "Metal work;" "A Philistine Artist;" "Hanging pictures;" "A Symphony in Gold and Ivory;" "Sanitary House Furnishing, part six; and a large number of interesting and instructive items very useful to those who desire to make home really beautiful and elegant, and with economy. It also contains a supplement, in which is much useful reading matter.

A serious outbreak of diphtheria recently occurred in the vicinity of Birmingham, arising from a foul and choked drain in a house at Balsall. A boy was first taken ill, and he continued to attend school long enough to communicate the infection to other children, necessitating the closing of the schools, and producing out of sixteen cases the large number of five deaths.