

found in nature proclaims itself an effect of previous energy. Thus the matter contained in nature, so far as known to us, began to be. Attempts to reach its ultimate character have also to proceed by assuming a beginning. Science has sought to account for masses of matter by recognizing molecules, and to explain molecules by supposing atoms. This necessitates the further supposition, that these have existed unchanged through all the changes of nature. Yet, as Prof. Clerk-Maxwell expresses it, the exact correspondence of these to one another, compels us to look beyond them to some common cause, or common origin, to explain why this singular relation of equality exists, rather than any one of the infinite number of possible relations of inequality. If on the other hand, an explanation of matter be sought by resolving it into visible modes of force, a conflict of energies, then these energies are outgoings, bespeaking the operation of a Being with all-pervading power. Nature reveals no ground whatever for denying to it a beginning. The deliverance of science may be summed up in the words of Sir J. W. Dawson. He says: "The geological history of the earth plainly intimates a beginning, by utterly negating the idea that 'all things continue as they were from the foundation of the world.' It traces back to their origin, not only the animals and plants which at present live, but also their predecessors, through successive dynasties emerging in long procession from the depths of a primitive antiquity. Not only so; it assigns to their relative ages, all the rocks of the earth's crust, and all the plains and mountains, built up of them. Thus as we go back in geological time, we leave behind us, one by one, all the things with which we are familiar, and the inevitable conclusion gains on us, that we must be approaching a beginning, though this may be veiled from us in clouds and thick darkness." Since nature has a beginning, and since the demand for a cause is a valid one, the supernatural comes into manifestation in the beginning, as a power adequate to the production of nature, and to all that has been revealed in its processes ever since. On the very threshold of created existence, we hear a voice from the formless void proclaiming, God exists a God of power.

But while a condition without form and void might mark the initial stage of creation, it could be applicable to nothing beyond the initial stage. The very first activity in the created mass, the