

## Evolution and the Faith.

Our country has lately presented for the consideration of its youth the following combination of a thoughtful article on the subject by T. T. Munger, in the May Century. We are not prepared to accept Mr. M's idea that evolution, even to the extent to which he refers, is as good as proved. The article is an able one, and it is to be hoped, that it will lead to a more intelligent discussion of the subject. (Editor's.)

(1.) The evolution now gaining general acceptance in the world is very different from the crude evolution propounded twenty years ago. Then it claimed the universal place in creation, making philosophy and religion subordinate. Now it is assuming its true place in the hierarchy of truth that is due to humanity.

(2.) Evolution is true and confirmed by the various sciences working along independent lines. It is not to be feared as a doctrine of mere development, but in the scope and relation assigned to it. If it is regarded as inclusive of all things, it is fatal to morals and religion. If it is regarded as supreme it gives its own law of necessity to all else. But evolution is really subordinate to a larger order of things. It may modify but it can never overthrow philosophy and religion.

(3.) One very important service rendered by evolution is the emphasis it gives to the doctrine of the unity of creation. There is one law or method in all reality. The bond or ground of unity is found only in God. Evolution perfects and reveals our own conception of the unity of God. Here we have the prophetic assurance of the highest result of creation according to the best hopes of Christianity. The whole process tends steadily towards the moral and spiritual. In the progress of man's development, there is a clear and steady trend to the people. Personal revelation passes into social punishment of crime by law and justice slowly creeps to higher forms. Penalty is first vindictive, then retributive, and lastly reformative. God is first conceived as power, then as justice, and finally as love. Thus evolutionary processes fall into line with revelation and are aids to faith.

(4.) Through evolution the argument from design is strengthened. The universe is a whole. In all its processes and in all ages, one principle works everywhere, binding together all things, steadily pressing on with ever increasing purpose towards the full revelation of God's goodness. (5.) Evolution brings God nearer to us. In this theory we see a veritable revelation of God, while in previous theories he was an abstraction of God. The reverence excited by the bare fact of creation has not the greatest value. Reverence is not profoundly stirred by that part of creation which is behind us, but by the stupendous order of creation as a whole, and by its splendid moral end. Reverence culminates in man as a moral and religious being, lifted up into new relations with God the Father.

(6.) The relation of the moral faculties of man to brute qualities need not dictate that they may spring from one root but they are not identical. The flower is not the same as the leaf and the branch. The laws of nature are the working of God and are holy. As they are manifested in the higher brutes, by their very nature and origin, they assume a moral aspect. But our moral feelings contain far more than their rudiments in the brutes. Indeed they become truly moral only as they cease to be animal. Conscience may have come through long processes of growth and differentiation, but it has reached far above those processes. The essential nature and potency lies in the mind of God that is behind all things.

(7.) The fact that man is organically related to the material world determines neither his nature nor his destiny. A bird might be tied to the earth by a thread of infinite length, yet soar forever in the heavens. It may be necessary that we be organically connected with the whole previous creation of God in order to share in the eternal order before us.

(8.) Again it has been greatly feared that if man were not an independent creature, but as a moral being, would fall under the laws of the previous creation. He would be swamped in necessity. Miracle would have no defense in the presence of hitherto universal law. The incarnation could not be discriminated from the instinctive action of the brutes. These fears would be well grounded if certain theories of evolution were true—such as that the potentialities of all terrestrial life are in matter alone, such as that force is all and is its own cause. But these theories are now outside in the world of thought. Force proceeds only from a will and is not necessarily variable, working only within the original limits. Force cannot be observed except as acting intelligently, except as under thought rather than force. It is only the steady pressure of the Eternal that makes matter. It works uniformly because it is a Divine wisdom in uniformity. That force is without play, that it works by necessity and not in freedom, is an assumption contradicted by every conscious act of the human will. It would be necessary to have been present when the foundations of the earth were laid to be able to say that as the chemic and dynamic passed into the organic there was not an addition of a force from the fountain of all force, the Mind of God.

As in creating the chemic may have needed more of God in order to have become organic, and as organic may have needed more of God in order to pass into the vital and conscious, so man may need God in the final perfection of his manifestation in the Christ in order to become perfect man. Hence revelation. Hence the incarnation. These are the very things to be expected after man has been drawn out of the verge of the moral and spiritual world. Christ is the moral environment of humanity. He is the term of its life.

Religion is correlated, not with a force, but with the free will of God. Nature is under only an apparent necessity of uniformity. Higher factors come in from time to time. Behind all lies the absolute Free Will of God, whose methods we have not yet quite completely apprehended.

(9.) But if man is included in the whole evolutionary process where and how does the free will of man come in with all its duties and responsibilities of religion? It comes in the progressive working of God. The production of free will, of the human

personality, appears indeed to be the end in view of the whole process. The very existence of force may be a condition of the spiritual realm which is freedom. It is said that freedom cannot grow out of necessity. Not if necessity is absolute and universal. This is not so.

In man we have a free will, a creative force in many ways. This is obtained through nature, but from God working by nature. Necessity may have preceded as the phase of a process. The result once obtained, the prior conditions relax.

In discussing the problems of religion, duty, faith, prayer, love, we are at full liberty, if we choose to turn our backs upon the material uniformity of nature. We are in a larger realm, an ultimate higher set of conditions. Man stands, not so much before law as before the Eternal One.

The flower is evolved through the differentiation of leaves. It does not, however, have its origin there. The idea of the flower, the idea of free manhood are in God. Nature is all about man. His real relation is to God.

(10.)

(a) In the progress of creation intelligence takes the place of material selection.

(b) The will comes into supremacy and man becomes himself a creative force.

(c) Conscience takes the place of desire.

(d) Man comes into a consciousness of God and recognizes and realizes the Spirit.

(e) Man is the end, the final object of creation.

(f) The end of a process cannot be identified with the process.

E. M. CHERLEY.

## The World's Holiest.

WRITTEN BY MISS BLANCHÉ BISHOP, A. B., AND DELIVERED ON HER GRADUATION FROM ACADEMY COLLEGE, JUNE 3, 1886.

A vision of a temple close revealed—The Universe; itself unbounded, yet Encompassed still by melting azure air. That looms form in spaces deep, unknown. Did ever hands of flesh build roof like this? Of arch on arch that stretch in grandeur up To where their rounds are crowned and fixed with stars—

The Builder's thoughts, each caught and hung in fire. Through all its vaults free sweeps the wind; And sunlight, woven by the wind and clouds Eternal variations, flash, as though By angels' hands entangled in the roof.

Herein dwells a Presence, that of life And light—the meaning of the outward world.

In whom is all begun, and bodied forth The tokens of upholding love and power. "All things are ready." This the word revealed.

By pledges claimed, not through dull mortal sense, But, God-like, by incarnate spiritual sight.

Carved in power, veiled in each soul, So blinded by the dross and dust of sin. Forgets to feel its full immortal rights, And all sweet influence of the earth or sky Alike shares with the common weed or worm.

Oh, and wrong it is, that what is ours By right of full regenerate life Should lie unsought, unloved, and thus unknown.

"All things are ready." As the silent waves Of post-uous oceans drift to silent shores, Their weight of waters ever moving on—

Carried by the breeze that never ceases to strive, So stretches ever at thy feet, oh soul, The boundless sea of Truth, whose heart Unceasing swells with force and majesty. So stand we silent as those careless shores, And feel the washings of that mighty flood Unmoved; for all its cleansing power's unknown.

And slightest in the view of wide expanse. Thus musing bitterly, there floated up, Through all the shining air, a dark'ning cloud

Of smoke that slowly veiled to and fro—The restless shadow of a spirit lost.

'Mid earth and heaven's mystic borderland, Athwart the awful life thus veiled forth, Athwart its gloomy folds, and outlines swift, confused,

There still gleamed spaces where the sun had made his home.

His arm of light and potency. There turned The waving clouds to iridescent mist, That, rising swiftly, ragged openings left.

And showed beneath an altar, not inscribed, But built and raised by an Unknown God. And this our earth, upon whose shrine These smokes

The sacrifice of mortal thoughts and deeds, Whose bodied spirits take their cloud-like way

Through aimless wand'rings, lacking faith's strong hand.

Upon the cold, invisible and fine, That bind the footstep to the throne above.

Loud through the gath'ring ages rang the cry

Of universal yearning; but the world Made no response, and those who sought for bread

Grasped eagerly the shining fruit whose touch

To ashes turned upon their shrinking taste. Here, love of empire with its greedy train, Had warped the souls of men, and made them lose

themselves.

The goal and end of striving. See! the path Of glory shows through all its crimson length.

A wreck of bones, that cry from hill to hill, But lose their echo in the shouts of war.

The cry of blood is tossed along the clouds Till all the heav'n, a scarlet canopy, Reflects the strife of earth, its sin and pain.

The trenches of the altar overflow—But unquenched thirst demands more vict'ry

than died.

Upon the mounds where struggle in their sleep,

In deathless agony, Ambition's slain. And what is power thus wrongly gained and used?

The lion's limb that tears and sucks the weak

Its own strength makes—the dragon's scorching breath,

That lights a furnace for its living fuel. It holds for frenzied nations monuments

Of guilt heaped up by deeds that date to crown

Such deeds men call the wisdom made for war—

A wisdom turned to different use in times of peace—

But deadly still; the race for wealth.

And fame is run where every stepping-stone To Mammoth wealth grinds down below the tread

Of victor blood and life and soul that else Would bless the earth. Are kings and emperors clothed

In silk and purple? Every thread is wrought With fearful gleams caught from their lives

Who clotheless died, and in death's shadow—

More kind than aught a human can give.

This is the law of life, that men shall earn What they eat by toil of hand and brow. But in fulfillment, worldly wisdom's greed

Has sown and reaped the whirlwind. So the strength

Of ages fades fruitless in the cry Of purpose unattained and labor cursed.

But yet far nobler ends are often served When restless spirits through the silence bear

The voiceless callings to a higher sphere Than meets the round of mere material use. But earth-moulded clods, and wings that fall

would bear

The soul to where it safe could grasp and hold

The hidden magic of a life uplift.

Who loathes and scorns the break the inner gates That lead from darkness to the light beyond.

Men sail their craft to shores of unknown lands,

And fancy they its utmost bounds have pierced.

They climb where a higher than the Alps is piled, and pry at their high vision-ground.

This call they Science, and with arduous task Their faint minds a basis form and lay

Of infinite intelligence designed.

With atom and with force mechanical They grasp no meaning of the personal life—

That mystery whose solving is with God. The occupations of the present hour

Are fruitless all to those pauses deep In human life when quivers every nerve,

In thought of leaping from what is, to that Dark gulf of what must be—the gulf of Death.

Oh, hungry souls that cry for bread of life, Ye do but gather husks, and think to fill

Your spiritual mouths with bare material

forms.

This truth the ages see with inward eye Unwilling; few and brave are those who know

The cry of their own souls and voice, the sound

Upon their lips. These, different systems Of what men call religion—poisons mixed

For souls diseased, and remedies that smooth

The outward sore, and leave the cause untouched.

The great schools in matter found the seeds

Of moral evil, and the senses purged For cleansing of the heart. So followed close,

In horrible array, ascetic forms Of torture, bearing wide and far the sound

That denoted the meaning of the deeper

will.

Some, intellect alone upheld as good, And all true virtue consistent with

True knowledge. So the common herd of men,

Debarred from grazing in those chosen fields Where knowledge follows fasting, look in vain

With longing eyes from out their prisoned stalls.

Sin-choked, and sigh for Herculean help To set a purer air about their lives.

Sin, we wailing! Ev' the wisest

Is seeking lightness round and round our earth

Are often slow to listen, then rush on With sorrow almost human, moaning low.

All suddenly the rising clouds of smoke That symbol forth man's guilt, his guilt and sin,

Are falling back to earth and breaking up In tossing fragments, that with motion slow

Rise once again, and lose themselves in white

illuminated mist, and woven through By bursts of streaming light. These fall below

And shine with full and tender radiance

Upon a band of men that walk our earth Enclaved in garments in whose hair there

shines

The Truth's own image. Slow and soft they walk,

And holy reverence stills each upturned face;

For in their midst they bear the Holy Grail. Long years before, revealed unto men,

The light of Truth recorded in the Word Was set before their eyes—the Word made flesh.

Here was the will divine made manifest, And kingdom, not of earth, but of the soul, Founded in all righteousness and peace.

At first the Revelation few received, But with these careful hands the light up-held

Through all the ages, 'till the nations saw All things illumined, and a point of light

That shone as far and lone as distant star Received. 'Till the ends of earth

It rays, and all deep things were bright and light.

As continents with movement silent, slow Uprear upon the shoulders of the deep

Their mighty heads and huge, majestic

forms, So mighty forces working silently Have wrought a new creation in the world

Of mind and spirit. When the symbolized

cup Of life through death has touched the lips

Then old things pass away. Where once was strife

And strong heart-burnings, hate and greed, And nations swallowed up by nations that

In turn felt sharp the wolf's devouring tooth, Shall be the dawn of righteousness and peace

When nations teach their hands to war no more.

In place of grinding poverty in lands Where Socialism feeds her savage brood, Shall rise the offering of a heart and mind

Made rich and blest by humanizing thought Of Charity. Then shall the ways of Truth Be unto men as lamps along a path

Whose end all knowledge is. Then human dust

With new and living breath shall stand transformed.

Thus gaze of prophetic eye, the earth Seems wrapt in vapors drifting white, And with foundation light as mocking

dreams. The smould'ring sun burns like a red-hot

ball, and every mountain-top is

drowned.

In burning glory. In their winding paths The glaciers blaze like serpents scaled with

fire.

Each peak of solitary snow, rose-dusted

Strikes through the purple lines of forest

and casts new glory on each passing

wreath.

'Till all the sky is interwoven with a roof

Of waving flame, and like the drifting

wings.

Of many angels. Then there flashes out

The gladdening knowledge of the Truth revealed.

"The sacrifice is ended." Thus a voice

In majesty from out the rolling spheres, In love and fear bow down and thou shalt

hear.

In full, Jehovah's message unto men!

"Waiting on Jonah."

BY MRS. EMILY C. PEARSON.

Mr. and Mrs. Campion, earnest Christians living on a fine New Hampshire farm, were in trouble. And yet, not one of their friends or neighbors surmised it. The

west went with them, and of all people they should be happy. They had

three intelligent, dutiful sons, Lemuel, William and Walter, aged respectively

eighteen, sixteen, and eight—and what more could they wish? But, ah, these

dear ones were without hope and God. It

was a family divided against itself, and

with much to make life pleasant, the

parents were very sad and anxious.

One day in haying time, Mr. Campion

came into the house early in the afternoon,

complaining of the headache.

"Why, Abraham, how sick you look!"

exclaimed Mrs. Campion, as with quick

intuition she saw that he was unusually

burdened about the boys.

"Seems as if I could not stand it any

longer, Martha, to have them reject Christ.

How does it happen with all our teaching

and counsel they are so hard and un-

believing?"

"Why, father, they're good boys, and I

have great hopes of them," said the mother.

"We are just sowing the seed. By-and-by

it will spring up and bear fruit."

"So I've heard you say often," returned

Mr. Campion. But still they hear the most

solemn appeals unmoved. You know how

it is at family prayers—they come in un-

willingly, seem listless or uneasy, and are

glad when they are through. If I mis-

take out, they are gospel-hardened sinners,

and not as I hope."

He turned away, and his eyes were filled

with tears, and he said to himself, "I

shall not give up, Abraham. Our

boys will yet be led into the fold. Are we

not praying night and day for them? And

we claim the sure promise, 'where two are

agreed, I shall be there for them.' The Lord

hears the prayer of faith; in Him I put

my trust.

"You'll be blessed in your prayers,"

there is no doubt of that," was the trem-

bling reply, "but if our boys continue to

harden their hearts, what's to hinder their

being lost? I do not see as they ever show

any special interest in religious things

of the Bible, do they?"

"Oh, yes, indeed they do," was the ear-

nest reply. "I cannot think them as hard

as many others; they give good attention

to Scripture narratives. You remember,

last Sabbath, the lesson was about Jonah,

and oh! how interested they were, and how

many questions they asked. When we

read together that Jonah 'was asleep in

the sides of the ship' when the storm broke

loose, I told the boys that that was like

careless sinners who sleep when they are

going straight to destruction and sleep over

it. They were hushed and impressed."

"Don't be too sanguine, Martha. Nothing

came of it, and as they questioned con-

science, they only became more obdurate.