

minute ball of snow may, in the descent of a mountain, swell into the overwhelming avalanche. But now its power is gone. It has reached the foot of the mountain. There it lies—helpless and passive. Its energy—consisting merely in its position—is spent. It is dead.

Not so with the little germ. While it is growing—not swelling—into a mature organism, it is developing the power of producing others of its kind. And these will be of such a nature as again to produce others, and so on, and on, in unlimited and beautiful succession, until a single pair of individuals may have become the ancestors of a host numbering to millions of millions, as is, no doubt, already the case with such animals as the ant and moth.

Let us take as an example a kernel of wheat. Viewing it with respect to its possibilities, it is to us not merely a berry of starchy matter, but an inexhaustible storehouse of energy which may unfold through all the ages for the good of all.

But this energy is of a peculiar kind. It is as though we had before us a small wooden box, inside of which, when mature, are disclosed a number of smaller boxes. Placing beside these a supply of wood, they proceed to grow and develop, until, themselves opening, they each expose a similar number of small boxes, which, being supplied with wood, behave themselves just as their parent boxes. In other words, life is infinite; or, a living being contains in it that which is capable of development into its posterity through all eternity, should the conditions of life continue.

Is it at all possible that any quantity of material should arrange itself, or even be arranged, into such a magic box, unless directed by an omniscient mind—a mind not trammelled by the finite? In other words, can the infinite form itself, or be formed *by* the finite *from* the finite? We think not. We conceive it to be absolutely impossible. And, accordingly, we conceive it to be absolutely impossible that at any time life has originated under the blind guidance of natural laws.

An illustration may not be out of place. In order that a