

is the fate of everything; that Law, fixed and eternal, governs the minutest particles of matter as of rolling worlds.

Man lives his brief life, passes away and is succeeded by others. Another generation repeats itself. So it has always been—so it will ever be. There really was no beginning, there can be no ending.

We may render homage to a master mind who designed all, and called all into being, or insist that all is self-existent and eternal, and we shall find the result is the same. It saves one step in the grand scale of creation. The ancients thought the earth was a plane, and rested on pillars; that the pillars rested on a rock, and the rock on a turtle's back. But what does the turtle rest upon? was the inquiry of the sceptic.

The logic that there is no design without a designer, no law without a lawgiver, is only a repetition of the pillar, rock, and turtle theory as regards the earth.

The sceptic of to-day meets all our arguments in regard to a first cause with the syllogism: "All the works of the Creator give evidence of design. As no design can exist without a designer, therefore," say they, "the Creator must have had a designer." Astronomers found that the earth did not rest upon pillars; that there was no need of a rock for them to stand upon; nor a turtle's back to support the rock; so when humanity shall better understand the forces of Nature, self-inherent in matter, which calls world's into being and endows them with motion and life, there will be less need for trying to comprehend that which is incomprehensible. The Law governing the mighty machinery of the universe; which keeps all in equal poise; which causes the earthquake and the upheaval of vast mountain chains; which drains oceans and sinks continents; which fills the atmosphere with lurid flame; and staples the people with its thunder crash; which gives rise to the winds, the waves and the tides, the heat of summer, the cold of winter, and the thousands of other incidents of well defined Law, once ascribed to the action of an *angry* God, is now well understood. As knowledge is further developed, other secrets of nature will be revealed, and the mythical causes will be further and further removed into the realms of the ignorant past.

The genuine student has no theories predicated upon early teachings. The great book of Nature is wide open before him, penciled by unerring Law, and everything must be tested

in the great crucibles of Reason and Truth. The dross is only consumed. The pure gold is made brighter by every test applied to determine its genuineness.

The Sanscrit is probably the original of all modern European languages. It contains the roots of the Latin, Greek, Celtic, German, and Slavonic. It is the ancient tongue, which prevailed throughout Hindostan, and from the Gulf of Bengal to the Arabian sea, extending to the Himalaya mountains on the north. The language has not been spoken for many thousand years. The sacred books of the Brahmanis were written in it, and, hence, have been preserved to modern times, without alterations common to a living language, as our ancient literature has been transmitted to us through the Greek and Latin. Scholars find the original of many of our myths in the Sanscrit, the story of "William Tell" being one of them, though the scene of it is now located in Switzerland, and the occurrence is made to have transpired within a few hundred years.

We stated in a former article that the account of a general deluge was undoubtedly copied by Jewish historians—priests, Josephus tells us,—from Babylonian records, while the Israelites were captives in that country. The Babylonian history, without question, was the source from which the flood of Deucalion, as well as that of Noah, was derived; but the story was older than Nineveh or Babylon; it was transmitted to them from a still older civilization; it came to those ancient people through the Sanscrit literature, the common fountain from which Chaldea, Assyria, Persia, and Egypt, were supplied, and from which the Phœnicians drank second hand, as did the Hebrews.

The geography of the old Sanscrit books describes the world as "a circular plain, with a slightly convex surface, sloping gently on all sides to a surrounding ocean. Beyond this ocean, which incloses the world in a vast river-like circle of waters, was a circular range of mountains, beyond which none but the most powerful gods could pass. In the centre of the world, at the highest point of its surface, stood Mount Meru, with Jambu-dwipa, the primeval home of the Aryan race, spread out around it," bordered by six other grand divisions of the earth.

These mountains bordering the ancient ocean supported the vast vault which spanned the heavens. Above this vault was the home of the superior gods. From their hand direct