

BIBLICAL GEOLOGY.

BY THE EDITOR.

THE geology of the Bible is the only supernatural science we have. It begins in Genesis with the creation of all things. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." It does not say when the material universe was created, or the matter of all worlds was made—only that it was "in the beginning." The Arabic translation has it, "the first thing," that is, matter was first created in formless, shapeless elements of the universe. "The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Here arises the Mosaic geology as given in the Bible, the creation of the watery materials of this earth and of the system of things connected with our earthly sphere.

How long this chaotic state of the earth continued the Bible does not say. And no men of natural science have ever determined the period of chaos, as Roman authors call it. If sciolists in science wish any amount of ages for this chaotic mass to boil and seeth, the Bible or the two first verses of Genesis do not limit the period. Other passages of the Holy Scriptures cast some light on the Mosaic account of God's creative act. "He spake and it was done. He commanded and it stood fast," says the Psalmist. And the Chief Apostle asserts expressly that, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things that are seen were not made of things which do appear."

Bible geology, therefore, affirms God's creative act. Matter arose at the bidding of the Almighty, who spake the worlds from nothing. Matter itself was instantaneously made by "the word of God." All the twaddle about the molecules of matter originating and arranging themselves on scientific principles of men's devise, is all the-

ory and not true science, for the molecules or smallest particles of matter must have had a "beginning," and cannot be derived from appearances or traces backward to the ages of eternity past. The great fact or fiat of the Creator must have preceded all and every thing made.

The next thing in the order of creation was light. "God said, let there be light, and there was light." Longinus, the Greek writer on the Sublime, quotes this from Moses as a remarkable instance of sublimity: "Let there be light, and light was." But infidels and skeptics have objected, that Moses has here got before his story in putting light before there were sun, moon, and stars. But what astronomer has ever proven what light is, and when it first shone on our system of creation? No philosopher has ever proven what light is. Is it matter or is it an accident of matter? If matter, why is not the sun itself consumed, and the darkness of chaos restored? The fact is, that God, who could make a sun in the heavens, could make light, whatever it is, out of nothing, like the other elements of creation, without any sun, moon, or stars.

As to the order of the other things of creation; the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms, as men of science call them, all naturalists of note agree that the Mosaic or the Bible order of creation is in accordance with the footprints of creation in all nature. And no evidence has yet been discovered of any animal orders, or tribes passing over to another species; for example of tadpoles being developed or evolved into monkeys, much less of monkeys developing into men.

As to the periods of Bible creation, if any language can describe a period of a *literal day*, the Hebrew does: "The evening and the morning was day one," "day two," and so on till the seventh or the Sabbath rest of creation. Otherwise, we must meet the absurdity of man's being ages or centuries in the process of creation! How can science prove anything of this sort? How could Adam and Eve come gradually into form and shape? How could they gradually learn language?

The ancient Greeks and Romans have the tradition that

Minerva sprang from the brain of Jupiter (the chief heathen deity), full armed as the Goddess of War. Why not Christians receive the literal facts of the supernatural creation of Adam out of the dust, and Eve out of Adam, as Matthew Henry says on the text of Moses, "that God took woman not out of the head of Adam, lest she should overtop him; nor out of his feet, lest she should be inferior to him, but out of his side and near his heart, that she might be a companion and equal?" The very fitness of things, therefore, makes it just as reasonable a fact, that God made supernaturally man and woman, a perfect man and a perfect woman in the instant of creation as to be ages about it. Such a theory, of demiurgic periods, as some men of science claim by stretching out days into indefinite periods of ages, is harder to be believed than heathen myths. God forbid, that any persons in a Christian and enlightened age should pervert the Bible, that only supernatural book to be received by faith, as containing the true philosophy of heaven, and not of science, falsely so called.

This brief essay on the supernatural character of the Bible should be further extended. It is the source of all "*supernatural science*," to which human "faith" and reason are to be directed, and not diverted from this supernatural book. All the miracles of the Old and New Testaments are only solvable and explainable on scriptural grounds, or on principles of supernatural science. A future article will set forth this view and expose the shallow sophistry of "philosophy," falsely so called. Meanwhile the ANNALS are open to other writers of contrary or different views of geology and philosophy.

THE SCIENTISTS AT PRAYERS.

The American Association for the Advancement of science, held its thirty-second annual Session at Minneapolis, Minn., August 15th to 22d inclusive. For the last four or five years, it has been a feature of the Association to hold a prayer-meeting on the Sabbath, midway of the session in the afternoon. This year it was held in the Westminster Presbyterian

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.