

THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE.

The Wonderful Declarations of Moses Not Inconsistent With Modern Research.

Some Views on Evolution After Fifty-Five Years of Patient Study.

Dr. Swallow Presents Further Arguments in Support of His Views on the Great Book.

Moses makes many most wonderful declarations about the creation of the universe, plants and animals; but that "the Lord God formed man of the dust of the earth," must have appeared the strangest and most improbable of all. Strange as it appears, Moses repeats the declaration more in detail when Adam was banished from Eden. But this surprising statement does not rest upon the authority of Moses alone. At least six of the best known Biblical writers, extending through the 1,500 years from Job to Paul, reiterate the same origin of man's body as an established fact; and many others allude to it in illustration of man's perishable physical nature. While we might quote Job, David, Isaiah and others, one passage from Solomon and one from Paul must suffice: "All are of the dust, and all turn to dust again." (Ec. 3:20.) Paul taught the Corinthians: "The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is of heaven." Here, then, we have a positive assertion, often repeated, that the human body with all its beauty of form, great variety of organs and tissues, and life-giving fluids, was made from "the dust of the earth." Is this true? If so, it was recorded and repeated many hundred years before any human being could know it was true—before chemical science had given us the means of determining whether it be true or false. But within the last few centuries a hundred chemists have subjected every organ, tissue and fluid of the human body to the most rigid tests, and have determined that the following elementary substances enter into their composition: Oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, sodium potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulphur, phosphorus, chlorine, iron and iodine. Whatever else is found in man is foreign to his nature, and is merely accidental.

Many thousand analyses of the soils in various parts of the world have shown the presence of these same substances. Now these soils, "dust of the earth," made up from the decomposition of the numerous surface rocks and decayed plants and animals, are the only mineral deposits which do contain all the chemical elements of man's body. And besides, it is an organic necessity that good soils should contain all these elements, in order that they may nourish the plants and supply them with the chemicals needed to give man and other animals their necessary food. For the people and animals now living have bodies like that of Adam; and the materials composing them, derived from the soil by the plants and deposited in their tissues and fruits. Thus man and other animals get the same chemical elements for their bodies that the Creator used in making Adam.

After a careful study of this record of the creation of many years, it has appeared to be the most improbable explanation of man's existence that Moses could have chosen to commend the universal belief of his contemporaries. With what scorn would Pharaoh's daughter and the queen of Sheba have received the assertion, "Your bodies are dirt." And yet, it appears to have commended the universal belief of the Jews, and was repeated by their best writers all down the ages, till science proved it true. Now, if anyone will calculate the chances that Moses would have chosen the "dust" rather than one of the hundred clean rocks, he might be led to suppose that, to make man out of, he will find those chances are as millions to one, that Moses would not have selected the soil, the only material in the earth which contained the necessary composition for man's body.

When elastic story selected a material to form the body of a Venus, not dirt, but the foam of the sea, secured the most appropriate material. After the race was destroyed by the flood, Deucalion and Pyrrha threw stones over their shoulders, which became men and women; who repopulated the earth. Plato tells us that the ancient Egyptians taught that the earth and men were made out of a sort of pulp, and that men sprang from the slime of the Nile. How is it then that Moses, "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians," did not adopt their views of the origin of man? Epicurus taught that the universe happened to come into existence by a "fortuitous concourse of atoms."

Not a few ancient philosophers believed in the spontaneous generation of plants and animals by processes differing but little from what is taught by some modern scientists. But no one yet in ancient or modern times has been able to show the production of animals except from germs of pre-existing animals. Some fifty years ago Mr. Cross, of London, announced to the world that he had succeeded in producing small insects by the action of electricity on certain vegetable infusions. He appointed a time to prove his creative power. The electric current was passed through the infusion, and lo! the little creatures came trooping up the wire, and Mr. Cross awaited his own as creator. But an entomologist had no sooner fixed his glass on the new-creatures, than he exclaimed, "Oh, Cross! this is an old acquaintance, a well known little spider!" Ains! what a fall from the throne of a creator to the humble seat of a hatcher of insects' eggs! Some years since Mr. Sebastian, also of London, published a book to prove his success in creating animals by passing electric currents through certain infusions. But Tindall took up the matter and soon proved that Sebastian, like Cross, had only succeeded in hatching eggs. In fact the investigations of our best scientific men during the last half century fully justify the strong assertions made by Mr. William Thompson in his address on taking the president's chair of the British association at the Edinburgh meeting: "Dead matter cannot become living without coming under the influence of matter previously alive. This seems to me as sure a teaching of science as the law of gravitation." If therefore the animal is not a creature of spontaneous generation, he is doubtless the offspring of creative power. And since the creations of animals as stated by Moses corresponds more perfectly with the teachings of modern science than any other theory of origin, it must be accepted by scientists till something better is proposed. During the last half century, a long line of distinguished scientists have declared their convictions that the Mosaic record is in satisfactory harmony with the teachings of science. "Well, I have been thinking and studying about evolution for more than fifty years; I have known and compared notes with many of the best scientists of America and Europe; have carefully studied what the great writers of evolution have written; and above all I have carefully examined the rock-record of animals from the Eozoon of the Laurentian rocks to the oldest human skull of the Engis cave, from the oldest to the latest animals; and yet I have not been able to see any proof that any one of the many thousands acknowledged species was derived from any other. It would not, however, be just to pass over the much published eoliphus and five more recent genera named as the true ancestors of the horse. The show is most beautiful and instructive. But why not bring down this equine pedigree through the five living species, each one of which is more nearly related to the horse than either of those mentioned above?

A TELEGRAPHIC HEART.

The Two Great Feats of the Western Union Company at Helena.

How It Sent News From Chicago Via Helena to St. Paul.

The Two Great Press Associations Were Badly Crippled and Looked Here For Assistance.

On several occasions it has been demonstrated that Helena is a very important point in the telegraph system of that part of the United States west of Chicago. When great storms occur wires and poles are blown down over vast sections of country, badly crippling lines and miles of telegraphic connection. The great storm of a week ago which had its origin at Red Bud, Ill., amounted to a cyclone at many points. The opposing forces of winter and summer met in that remote town of southern Illinois, and from the clash that ensued there resulted at least three cyclonic storms, one going due southeast, another southwest and a third almost due west into Nebraska. Not only was the storm marked by severe wind, but also by sleet and heavy wet snow, the features that telegraph operators have by experience most learned to fear. So great was the strength of the storm in some parts of Iowa that whole telegraph poles were blown many feet and wires intricately mixed. At Dubuque, Iowa, for instance, so badly were wires of all kinds mixed that at 11 o'clock in the morning the electric lights of the city were still burning brightly in the streets, it being impossible to separate the light wires from the mass of telephone and telegraph lines with which they were hopelessly confounded.

The North American company lost all its wires over the Burlington & Northern. The Western Union wires were in just as bad shape, and farther north along the line of the Wisconsin Central they were also down. The only communication in that section with the outside world was by means of the extreme west; news being obtained in a roundabout way from Helena and Omaha, Neb. The east was completely shut out.

The telegraphic dispatches published in St. Paul and other cities were all sent over the following route: Chicago to St. Louis, thence to Little Rock, Ark., to New Orleans, to Galveston, Tex., to Kansas City, to Ogden, Utah, to Helena, thence to their destination east of Helena. For the first time in many months the two great press associations lost all their wires in a territory controlled by the telegraph of America. The damage and stoppage of telegraphic communication was fully equal to that of last winter, when the Helena office, by reason of its position in the telegraphic system, came to be known as "The Telegraphic Heart of America." For over a week last winter, on the occasion of a great storm, the Helena office had a force of operators using every available wire and instrument day and night. Some of the lightning strikers worked twenty-two hours at a stretch, and two of them made records for rapid sending. The situation put a great strain on the resources of the office, but it was met by Manager Swan and his assistants, who distinguished themselves as they did a week ago.

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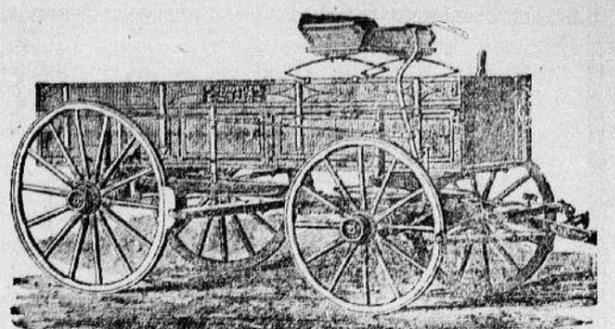
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