

The igneous particles were diffused with extreme rarity throughout space, but they had in them the principles and powers of matured and replenished worlds. First of all, they rolled together to make suns ; the masses of these suns, in the course of contraction and condensation, threw off zones, which turned into globular bodies and became planets. As improvement proceeded, inorganic matter, imbued with electrical and other properties, produced organisation ; then simple structures developed more complex and refined structures, and so progress went on to perfection, till eventually the brute developed the man. The constituents of this theory, which ascribe a nebular origin to the stellar universe, were the conjectures of great men, though they have lost all their plausibility in consequence of the discoveries made by Lord Rosse's telescope. But the dream of development which has been allied with them has been honoured with far more refutation and notoriety than it deserves. At present I will offer a few observations on the doctrine of development as applied to species. It maintains that in the course of ages new species may have been produced, according to a natural law, as well as