

adopted! In the first place, it existed as a wild dream ere Geology had any being as a science. It was an antecedent, not a consequent,—a starting assumption, not a result. No

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tend their own principles of self-development from mere matter to living creatures. Now, Sir, I confess myself to be one of those (and possibly you may have more readers similarly constituted) who not only cannot see any great difference between merely *physical* and *organic* development,[! !] but who would be inclined to allow the latter, absurd as it is, the advantage in point of likelihood.[!!!] The author of the 'Rambles,' however, in the face of this, assures us that *his* views of physical self-development and long chronology belong to the inductive sciences. Now, I could at this stage of his rambles have wished very much that, instead of merely *saying* so, he had given his *demonstration*. He refers, indeed, to several great men, who, he says, are of his opinion. Most that these men have written on the question at issue I have seen, but it appeared far from demonstrative, and some of them, I know, had not fully made up their mind on the point.[!!!] Perhaps the author of the 'Rambles' could favor us with the inductive process that converted himself; and, as the attainment of truth, and not victory, is my object, I promise either to acquiesce in or rationally refute it.[?] Till then I hold by my antiquated tenets, that our world, nay, the whole material universe, was created about six or seven thousand years ago, and that in a state of physical excellence of which we have in our present fallen world only the 'vestiges of creation.' I conclude by mentioning that this view I have held now for nearly thirty years, and, amidst all the vicissitudes of the philosophical world during that period, I have never seen cause to change it. Of course, with this view I was, during the interval referred to, a constant opponent of the once famous, though now exploded, nebular hypothesis of La Place; and I yet expect to see *physical development* and *long chronology* wither also on this earth, now that THEIR root (the said hypothesis) has been eradicated from the SKY.[!!!] — I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"PHILAETHES."

I am afraid there is little hope of converting a man who has held so stoutly by his notions "for nearly thirty years;" especially as, during that period, he has been acquainting himself with