

for producing mechanically the endless variety of the different animals and plants, which have the appearance of being organized according to a plan for a definite purpose. Meanwhile the question must have already repeatedly presented itself to the reader, How did the first organisms, or that one original and primæval organism arise, from which we derive all the others?

This question Lamarck<sup>2</sup> answered by the hypothesis of *spontaneous generation*, or *archigony*. But Darwin passes over and avoids this subject, as he expressly remarks that he has "nothing to do with the origin of the soul, nor with that of life itself." At the conclusion of his work he expresses himself more distinctly in the following words: "I imagine that probably all organic beings which ever lived on this earth descended from some primitive form, which was first called into life by the Creator." Moreover, Darwin, for the consolation of those who see in the Theory of Descent the destruction of the whole "moral order of the universe," appeals to the celebrated author and divine who wrote to him, that "he has gradually learnt to see that it is just as noble a conception of the Deity to believe that he created a few original forms capable of self-development into other and needful forms, as to believe that he required a fresh act of creation to supply the voids caused by the action of his laws." Those to whom the belief in a supernatural creation is an emotional necessity may rest satisfied with this conception. They may reconcile that belief with the Theory of Descent; for in the creation of a single original organism possessing the capability to develop all others out of itself by inheritance and adaptation, they can really find much more cause for admiring the power and