

the corner-posts, the upright timbers, the joists, the rafters, the partition studs. Then come the flooring, the lathing, the siding, and the roof boards. Next, the plastering, the baseboards, the casings, the doors, the windows. Finally, the painting, the graining, and the decorations. Here the procedure is by continuity, and from general to particular. That is, the material employed in first rough outline remains, and the modifications consist in the addition of successive details and particulars. Now this is Nature's method as well as man's. I think I can show you that such is the case.

Consider first, the realm of inorganic matter. I think we are entitled to trace the train of events back to a disseminated cosmical dust, which reveals its existence in meteors, comets, and nebulæ. Reflect then, that the same matter which floated cold in space, appeared later as a fire-mist, then a planetary ring, then a darkened planet, a solid continent, a tree, or a human body. It is a wonderful thought; but I believe we must admit its truth. Here is continuity. Then notice the other conception in Nature, method, specialization. The first condition of matter was chaotic; no form was outlined in it. Little less chaotic was the nebulous or fire-mist stage. The idea of limits and form began to be expressed. When a ring was abandoned; when two spheres existed, some advance in detail was achieved. Still more when other rings, other spheres—primary and secondary, came in due order, as modifications out of the original matter. The progress of each separate planetary sphere carried forward the method of specialization. The earth, for example, was fire-mist; then a molten globe with a mixed atmosphere; then an incrusting globe; then an incrustated globe with an ocean film about it; then all this with emergent nuclei of continents; then further emergences, with added layers of rocks; and then an atmospheric specialization by the separation of carbon and a new kind of rock; then further emergences and more complicated rock arrangements; then a detailed sculpturing and rough wastage of the land; then the glacial repair of the land; then a continuance of erosive and modifying actions, to the