

Do not say the doctrine displaces the doctrine of divine creation; for it proclaims creation—a perpetual creation—according to an intelligible, God-chosen method. Do not say that in recognizing the “reign of law” we displace personal divine agency; for the first principle in an intelligent divine government must be order, regularity, uniformity. Do not imagine that law and method are the cause of any thing; or that we can hold them to be causes. Natural law and method are only modes or ways in which the divine creative Cause chooses to act. Do not say on the other hand, that the ascription of world-regulating law to a personal Will, is the delivery of the world to the government of caprice. Caprice results from the absence of mind. Law and mind are correlative terms.

I must not claim your attention longer. Perhaps I have penned some sentences which my younger readers will find difficult; but I hope you will all treasure the truth in these sentences, and ponder over it; then, when a little older, you will be enraptured, as I have been, with the richness and depth and grandeur of the meaning which the divine hand has written in the rocks and in the stars.

LIV. ONE EMPIRE.

THE UNITY OF NATURE.

THROUGH my window I watch the paling of the evening twilight, till a mild ray from a little star meets my eye. The pensive hour awakens a train of thought. A tiny ray of starlight—whence comes it? What is it? What does it say to me? My soul listens, and I hear starry responses: “I am a tremor in the universal ether. I am the throb of a world in flames. It swings on the farther verge of the abyss of space, and launched me years ago on a wave of ether, to be floated down to your dark planet and whisper a sublime truth to your understanding. I have traveled ten score thousand miles a second, but since I started your grand-parents first saw the day. They have spent their toilsome lives, and the