

rocks, which must have required an immense period for their formation. 2. Previously to the production of the stratified rocks, the globe had cooled from an incandescent state, at an inconceivably slow rate. It is not unlikely that this period of time was greater than the whole of the fossiliferous era. 3. If we admit the truth of the hypothesis that the world was condensed from a gaseous to the liquid state, we have another period previous to the existence of life immensely protracted, to cool the surface sufficiently to allow of the presence of water.

*Inference 6.—The changes which the earth has experienced, and the different species of organic beings that have appeared, were not the result of any power inherent in the laws of nature, but of special Divine creating power.*

The opposite hypothesis, when fully stated, embraces three distinct branches. The first supposes the present universe to have been developed by the power of natural law from nebulous matter, without any special Divine interposition, according to the views of the eminent mathematician, La Place. This has been called the cosmogony of the subject. The second supposition is, that certain laws, inherent in matter, are able of themselves to produce the lowest forms of life without special creating power. This forms the Zoogony of the subject. The third supposition is, that in the lowest forms of organization thus produced, called monads, there exists an inherent tendency to improvement. And thus from a mere mass of jelly vitalized, higher and more complicated organic forms have been eliminated, until man at last was the result. This called the Zoonomy of the subject.

The supposed proof of this hypothesis is derived from astronomy, physiology, galvanism, botany, zoology, and geology. But it is only the argument from the latter subject that can receive any attention in this work. When this hypothesis is fully carried out, it is intended and adopted to vindicate atheism. When advocated by a professed believer in the Deity and even in revelation, it is made to assume a much more attractive aspect.

In favor of this hypothesis of *creation by laws*, it has been argued, 1. That in the oldest fossiliferous rocks we find chiefly the more simple invertebrate animals and flowerless plants, and the more perfect ones came in gradually, increasing in numbers and complexity of organization to the present time. The lowest vertebrate animals were fish; then reptiles succeeded, then birds, then mammals, then man. Here we see the series gradually expanding, just as this theory requires. 2. There was probably a distinct *stirps*, or root, for each of the great classes of animals and plants, with which it started, from which the development proceeded along as many great lines as there are classes. This supposition shows why we find representatives of all the classes in the lowest rocks.

In answer to these arguments, and as proofs of the sixth inference, we remark 1. That in all the more than 30,000 species of organic remains dug from the rocks, they are just as distinct from one another as existing species, nor is there the slightest evidence of some having been developed from others. 2. The gradual introduction of higher races is perfectly explained by the changing condition of the earth, which being adapted for more perfect races, Divine Wisdom introduced them. 3. For the most part the new races were introduced by groups, as the old ones died out in the same manner. The new groups were introduced at once; pointing clearly to creation rather than development. 4. If anywhere, we ought to find evidence of development and metamorphosis in the human species. But so immeasurably is