

the seed. Topsy, in the novel, "'spected that she was not made, but growed ;" and the only class of opponents which the geological theist finds in the field which his science has laid open to the world is a class that hold by the philosophy of Topsy.

Let me briefly remark regarding this development hypothesis, with which I have elsewhere dealt at considerable length, that while the facts of the geologist are demonstrably such, *i. e.* truths capable of proof, the hypothesis is a mere dream, unsupported by a shadow of evidence. A man of a lively imagination could no doubt originate many such dreams ; nay, we know that in the dark ages dreams of the kind were actually originated. The *Anser Bernicla*, or barnacle goose, a common winter visitant of our coasts, was once believed to be developed out of decaying wood long submerged in seawater ; and one of our commonest cirripedes or barnacles, *Lepas anatifera*, still bears, in its specific name of the goose-producing *lepas*, evidence that it was the creature specially recognised by our ancestors as the half-developed goose. As if in memory of this old development-legend, the bird still bears the name of the barnacle, and the barnacle of the bird ; and we know further, that very intelligent men for their age, such as Gerardes the herbalist (1597), and Hector Boece the historian (1524), both examined these shells, and, knowing but little of comparative anatomy, were satisfied that the animal within was the partially developed embryo of a fowl. Such was one of the fables gravely credited as a piece of natural history in Britain about three centuries ago, and such was the kind of evidence by which it was supported. And we know that the followers of Epicurus received from their master, without apparent suspicion, fables still more extravagant, and that wanted even such a shadow of proof to support them as satisfied the herbalist and the historian. The Epicureans at least professed to believe that the earth, after spontaneously