

powerful attraction of a vast globe of matter not half a dozen miles distant, and hence needing some buoyant support. These fire-mist, and perhaps solid, particles were attracted only by each other, and by the great common aggregation of particles. For the particles in the neighborhood of the center of the aggregation, the attraction would be nearly equal in all directions. For particles millions of miles away, an excess of attraction toward the center would be felt; but the force would be inconceivably small. So the mist particles were practically suspended in space and required no gaseous support.

The cooling history can be traced no farther back. Such, probably, was its beginning. But I do not assume that the matter of our system was originated in this state. We may be able to trace out some remoter antecedents; but if that can not be done, I am perfectly prepared to admit that matter may have entered existence as a fire-mist. However it originated, the temperature implied in fire-mist is as natural and inherently probable as any lower or higher temperature. Temperatures are merely circumstances. Whatever temperature prevails anywhere, things adjust themselves to it, and that is natural.

Now, another thought is in every reader's mind. This point has been reached as a beginning of a history of cooling.

From this point a *natural* process of cooling brings to pass all the events in our system's physical history—all the events in our world's history. We are proposing to show this, and trace the evolution in its general outlines. Now you shrink back and exclaim "Evolution?—Fate! Atheism!" That, my dear friend, shows your total ignorance of the nature of evolution.

Be calm. God was in the beginning, is now, and ever will be. God originated; God controls; God is in the midst of his works. Suppose we call the fire-mist the absolute beginning; there are certainly three things which are *not* fire-mist, and require explanation infinitely more than a fire-mist condition of matter. Without these three things, there would