

Science and Religion,

OR,

BLATCHFORD AND BLASPHEMY.

Evolution or Creation ?

"The Riddle of the Universe," and How it may be
Resolved.

Being thoughts and criticisms on some articles which have lately
appeared in *The Clarion* Newspaper, edited by Robert Blatchford.

By "ZETETES."

"CANST THOU BY SEARCHING FIND OUT GOD?"

Reprinted from "FLAT OR SPHERICAL," *by*

LADY BLOUNT *and* ZETETES.

Printed and published by E. A. M. B., at 11, Gloucester Road, Kingston Hill,
Surrey, England.

Price 3d., post free.

To be had from the writer,

Hatfield Villa, Gwendolen Road, Leicester.

Mr. Blatchford's
Great Mistake,

OR,

CLARION'S "SCIENCE"

VERSUS

GOD'S TRUTH,

BY

LADY BLOUNT, AND E. V. MULGRAVE,

Minister,

*(formerly THE REV. E. V. MULGRAVE,
of the Established Church of England).*



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RELIGION AND "SCIENCE."

By "ZETETES."

Early in this year, namely, on January 23rd, 1903, the Editor of a weekly newspaper called *The Clarion*, commenced an attack on religion generally and the Bible in particular. He attacks the truth and inspiration of the Bible on various grounds, but chiefly because of its cosmogony, the creation and order of the universe, as revealed therein. He bases these attacks on the assumption of the truth of the globular theory of the earth, and the theory of evolution which has sprung from it. He seems to think that which is written in the name of "Science" is infallible, and that the Bible, therefore, is in error wherever it is contradicted by the teachings of science: and there are contradictions. He complains that Christians accept the teachings of the Bible without submitting them to the light of reason; while he gives abundant evidence that he accepts the teachings of "Science" without having personally tested its claims. Gullibility is not confined to those who profess some religion. Men who are sceptical of Bible truth can swallow down unproved and extravagant cosmical theories when promulgated in the name of Science. A man like Mr. Blatchford may deny that God made the world in six days; but he can believe it came into existence of itself, by merely "natural law" operating through millions of years! He can ridicule the belief of the early Christians who, as he affirms, thought "that the earth was flat like a plate"; but he cannot for the life of him give an unimpeachable proof that the earth on which he lives is a whirling globe flying through space faster than a cannon ball. It is often easier to ridicule than to reason; but sceptics who pride themselves on their ability to reason ought not to lay themselves open to this reproach.

In *The Clarion* for April 17th, 1903, about half of the front page is devoted to an article headed—

"THE UNIVERSE AND ITS CREATOR."

By R. BLATCHFORD.

From this article we make the following quotations:—

"The theory of the early Christian Church was that the earth was flat, like a plate, and the sky was a solid dome above it, like an inverted blue basin. The sun revolved round the earth to give light by day, the moon revolved round the earth to give light by night. The stars were auxiliary lights, and had all been specially, and at the same time, created

for the good of man. God created the sun, moon, stars, and earth in six days. He created them by word, and He created them out of nothing. . . . To-day our ideas are very different. Hardly any educated man or woman in the world believes that the world is flat, or that the sun revolves round the earth, or that what we call the sky is a solid substance like a domed ceiling?"

Advanced thinkers, even amongst the Christians, believe that the world is round, that it is one of a series of planets revolving round the sun, that the sun is only one of many millions of other suns, that these suns were not created simultaneously, but at different periods, probably separated by millions or billions of years. Advanced thinkers, even amongst the Christians, have abandoned the fable of the six days' creation, the story of Adam and Eve, and the fall. . . . All the advances in knowledge, and all the improvements in the Christian religion, are due to scientists and to sceptics, many of whom have been persecuted or murdered by the Church for their services to mankind.

There is no passage in the Bible which says the world was made "out of nothing." But we acknowledge that the early Christians believed the earth to be a motionless and extended plane. We also acknowledge that the Old Testament Scriptures taught this doctrine hundreds of years before Christ's time. Moreover, we Zetetics in these days still believe this teaching. We think it is in harmony with facts and true to nature; and we challenge proof that it is otherwise. The world has never yet been proved to be globular; nor has it ever yet been proved to have axial or orbital motion. These doctrines are assumed. We know whereof we affirm. We have read some of the best books on modern astronomy: and have been surprised to find what a large amount of this so-called "Science" is based upon hypothesis or assumption. On two consecutive pages of a modern work on Astronomy we counted, as it lay open, a dozen terms like the following:—hypothesis, assumption, speculation, supposition, theory, etc., etc., now "Science" means knowledge, from the Latin *Scio* or *Scientia*; but hypothesis is supposition, or guesswork, not real knowledge. We Christians have too readily yielded the claims of modern theoretical astronomy. We should "prove all things," and not accept science teaching on trust, because of great names; especially where that teaching contradicts the Bible.

Mr. Blatchford says that "Advanced thinkers even amongst Christians believe the world is round"—when he says "round" we suppose he means *globular*, for a penny is "round" and flat too. We should call such Christians very thoughtless, or even recreant Christians, if they give up Bible teaching at the bidding of such

speculative theories as now pass for Science. But the question is not what "advanced" Christians may "believe," but "What is true" in itself: "Science," so-called, or the Bible? We know it is fashionable and popular at the present day to believe in "science"; but it is a different thing to prove its ever-changing theories true. Let anyone try, for instance, to prove that the world is now rushing through "space," as the astronomers affirm it is, about nineteen miles a second. We have asked Mr. Blatchford to try, but he declines! It is easier to flourish astronomical speculations and to flout their figures in the face of Bible cosmogony. Mr. Blatchford knows that at the present time they will be generally accepted as true. But he also knows that a theory which is not true may be generally accepted even by "educated men," as he affirms of some religious opinions. Yet in the same article he complacently proceeds as follows:—

We have seen the account of the universe and its creation, as given in the revealed Scriptures. Let us now take a hasty view of the universe and its creation, as revealed to us by science. What is the universe like, as far as our limited knowledge goes? Our sun is only one sun amongst many millions. Our planet is only one of eight which revolve around him. Our sun, with his planets and comets, comprises what is known as the solar system. There is no reason to *suppose* that this is the only solar system: there *may be* millions of solar systems. For aught we know, there *may be* millions of systems, each containing millions of solar systems. Let us deal first with the solar system of which we are a part. The sun is a globe of 866,200 miles diameter. His diameter is more than 108 times that of the earth. His volume is 1,305,000 times the volume of the earth. All the eight planets added together only make one-seven-hundredth part of his weight. His circumference is more than two and a half millions of miles. He revolves upon his axis in 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ days, or at a speed of nearly 4,000 miles an hour. This immense globe is *supposed* to be a solid mass, encased in an envelope of flaming gas. It affords light and heat to all the planets. Without the light and heat of the sun, no life would now be, or in the past have been, possible on this earth, or any other planet of the solar system.

The volume of Jupiter is 1,389 times, of Saturn 848 times, of Neptune 103 times, and of Uranus 59 times the volume of the earth. The mean distances from the sun are: Mercury, 36 million miles; Venus, 67 million miles; the Earth, 93 million miles; Mars, 141 million miles; Jupiter, 483 million miles; Saturn 885 million miles; Uranus, 1782 million miles; Neptune, 2792 million miles. To give an idea of the meaning of these distances I may say that a train travelling night and day at 60 miles an hour would take quite 176 years to come from the sun to the earth. The same train, at the same speed, would be 5,250 years in travelling from

the sun to Neptune. Reckoning that Neptune is the outermost planet of the solar system, that system would have a diameter of 5,584 millions of miles.

But this distance is as nothing when we come to deal with the distances of the other stars from our sun. The distance from our sun to the nearest fixed (?) star is *supposed* to be about 20 millions of millions of miles. Our express train, which crosses the diameter of the solar system in 10,560 years, would take, if it went 60 miles an hour day and night, about 35 million years to reach the nearest fixed star from the sun.

But these immense distances only relate to the *nearest* stars. Now, the nearest stars are about four "light years" distant from us. That is to say, that light, travelling at the rate of about 182,000 miles in *one second*, takes four years to come from the nearest fixed star to the earth. But I have seen the distance from the earth to the Great Nebula in Orion given as *a thousand light years*, or 250 times the distance of the fixed star above alluded to. To reach that nebula at 60 miles an hour, an express train would have to travel for 35 millions of years multiplied by 250—that is to say, for 8,750 million years. And yet there are millions of stars whose distances are even greater than the distance of the Great Nebula in Orion. How many stars are there? No one can even guess. But L. Struve *estimates* the number of those visible to the great telescopes at 20 millions. Twenty millions of suns! And as to the sizes of these suns, Sir Robert Ball says Sirius is ten times as large as our sun; and a well-known astronomer, writing in the "English Mechanic" about a week ago remarks that Alpha Orionis (Betelgeuze) has *probably* 700 times the light of our sun.

Can you suppose that such a creator would, after thousands of years of effort, have failed even now to make his repeated revelations comprehensible? Do you believe that He would be driven across the unimaginable gulfs of space, out of the transcendent glory of His myriad resplendent suns, to die on a cross, in order to win back to Him the love of the puny creatures on one puny planet in the marvellous universe His power had made? Well, next week I will contrast this idea of the universe with the idea given in the so-called Book of the Revelation of God, and I will contrast this idea of a creator with the pictures of the God presented to us in the Holy Bible.

And so our editor goes on with these extravagant and monstrous speculations. I have underlined the word "suppose" three times in the above brief quotations. On the basis of these suppositions he compares the "universe of science" with the universe of the Bible, and of course, very much to the disparagement of the latter. But thoughtful and faithful Christians will require proof that these speculations are justified before giving up the Bible and natural cosmogony. Proctor acknowledges that it is natural to think the earth is flat, because, as he says, it "looks flat." And balloonists,

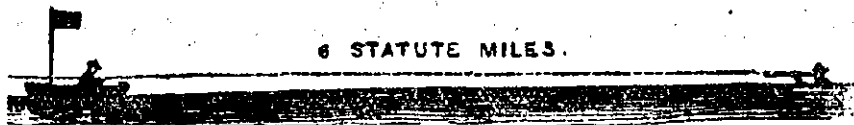
who get a more extended view than others, acknowledge the same thing. And wherever an extent of still water has been carefully surveyed the surface has been found to be perfectly level or horizontal. By this means the Riddle of the Universe may be resolved, for a flat earth "knocks the bottom out of" evolution! For if the surface of standing water is horizontal, the earth generally must be a plane. Abundant proof of this fact has been given in *The Earth*, a monthly paper published in the interests of the zetetic cosmology. We have only space here for a short extract.

THE SURFACE OF ALL WATER HORIZONTAL,

"Experiments made upon the sea have been objected to on account of its constantly changing attitude. Standing water has therefore been selected, and the following experiments were made."

EXPERIMENT 1.—In the County of Cambridge there is an artificial river or canal called the "Old Bedford." It is upwards of twenty miles in length, and passes in a straight line through that part of the Fens called the 'Bedford Level.' The water is nearly stationary, often entirely so, and throughout its entire length has no interruption from locks or water-gates; so that it is in every respect, well adapted for ascertaining whether any and what amount of convexity really exists. A boat with a flag standing five feet above the water was directed to sail from a place called "Welche's Dam" (a well known ferry passage) to a place called "Welney Bridge." These two points are six statute miles apart. The observer, with a good telescope, was standing in the water, with the eye not exceeding eight inches above the surface. The flag and the boat were *clearly visible throughout the whole distance!* as shown in the following diagram.

6 STATUTE MILES.



THUS PROVING WATER TO BE LEVEL.

From this experiment it was concluded that the *water does not decline from the line of sight!* As the altitude of the eye of the observer was 8-in., the highest point, or the horizon, or summit of the arc, would be at one mile from the place of observation; from which point the surface of the water would curve downwards, and at the end of the remaining five miles would be 16-ft. 8-in. *below the horizon!* The top of the flag being 5-ft. high would have sunk gradually out of sight, and at the end of six miles would have been 11-ft. 8-in. *below the eye line!* This simple experiment is all-sufficient to demonstrate that *the surface of the water is parallel to the line of sight and is therefore Horizontal;* and that the earth cannot possibly be other than a vast irregular PLANE.

Any one as he stands on the sea-shore may test for himself the fact that the surface of the sea is level. Where there is an extensive view right and left let the experimenter fix a long bar of wood or iron in a horizontal position until it is in a line with the sea level or horizon. If the ocean be spherical in form the sea horizon should decline away from the bar in a curve to the right and to the left of the spectator. The amount of curvature which should appear on a globe of the stated dimensions may be found by squaring the distance in miles and then multiplying by eight inches. For ten miles it would be about sixty-six feet; and for twenty miles about two hundred and sixty-six feet. These amounts of curvature would be easily visible in the above distances; but though such tests have frequently been applied no such curvature has ever been seen. The astronomers profess to believe that the sea curves forward in front of the spectator; but if it did so it would curve equally to the right and to the left. This fact is generally ignored; as also the fact that when the hull of a vessel has disappeared to the naked eye it can often be brought again into view by a good telescope, thus showing that the vessel had not gone over and beyond a "hill of water." And as for circumnavigation any flat island can be circumnavigated. These facts thoroughly demolish the globular theory, and the infidel and evolutionary theories which are based thereon. It is one theory upon another theory, and a mass of theories upon these! However I thought it right to give Mr. Blatchford a chance to prove his premises; so I wrote to him.—I did not ask him anything unreasonable—to prove, for instance, the misty cycles of past geological ages; or to trace his ancestors down, or up, from protoplasm through the anthropoid ape—but I simply asked him to give me one good and unimpeachable proof that the earth is a whirling ball or flying sphere, a sort of heavenly body or shooting star. The world is here and we are on it; so the question need not be encumbered with the vague and various conclusions of ancient history, ontology, or evolution. This seemed to me to be fair and reasonable, something tangible, not transcendental, a subject here and now; hence the following plain and straightforward letter:—

To the Editor of *the Clarion*.

June 29th, 1903.

SIR—I have been reading your articles on Science and Religion. I find you attack the truth of the Bible on the basis of modern

astronomical theories, which you seem to accept without question. I will own that the account of Creation in Genesis is wrong, entirely wrong, if you can give me a good proof of the following astronomical theories:—

- (1) That the earth is a globe,
- (2) That it has axial and orbital motions,
- (3) That the sun is ninety odd millions of miles away,
- (4) That the stars are suns.

I do not ask you to refer me to astronomical books, or to professional men who hold these theories. I know them. You publicly attack the Bible on the basis of these assumptions, and I ask you personally to prove your premises. Will you do so? Will you print this short letter, and follow it up with one good proof for each of the four positions above mentioned. If for any reason you cannot undertake the four, will you try to prove the first and second propositions?

If you cannot do this are you consistent in attacking the Bible account of Creation on such a basis? If you think you can do it will you make the attempt in an early issue of *The Clarion*, and allow me in the following issue to examine your so-called proofs?

I may say that I am a Christian who believes in the literal truth of a six days' creation; and I think those men highly inconsistent who, at the same time, profess to believe both the Bible and modern theoretical astronomy which contradicts it. One or the other is false. We cannot believe both. One or the other must go down.

Now all I ask of you is to prove your position and show that modern astronomy is true; when it will naturally follow that the old Bible cosmogony is false. I want no shirking of the issue. You ought to make the attempt, and to allow your reasons and proofs to be examined. I think I can perform this little service for you, and for your readers, if you will allow me. If you are honestly seeking for truth as you profess, you will not ignore this straight-forward challenge. I offer you four simple but fundamental astronomical propositions; and I require you at least to take up the first two. They are practical questions, nothing transcendental about them.

If you decline the fair discussion of them zetetics will of course draw their own conclusions; and there are more educated zetetics in

the world than you may be aware of. However, I am one, and as such I beg to subscribe myself

Hatfield Villa,

Yours faithfully,

Gwendolen Road,

ALBERT SMITH.

Leicester.

("Zetetes.")

I gave my full name and address, and enclosed stamps for reply, or return of manuscript. On July 2nd, I received the letter, which was returned in *The Clarion* official envelope, without one word of reply, good, bad, or indifferent. So that on this occasion the "Clarion" trumpet must have been short of wind! As I remarked in my letter zetetics will draw their own conclusions. The excuse could hardly be "lack of space" in a newspaper which devotes nearly a whole page to vilifying the Creation and the God of the Bible; followed by reports of football matches, and other more or less important matter.

BLATCHFORD'S BLASPHEMY.

In *The Clarion* for April 24th nearly the whole of the fifth page is devoted to vilifying the God of Israel, notwithstanding that He has warned all men He will not hold them "guiltless who take His Name in vain." Mr. Blatchford heads his chapter with the great and glorious Name, and says that Jehovah was "the adopted heavenly Father of Christianity." On reading this one of my sons remarked that he had "never before known a son adopt his own father"! I simply remarked that he did not understand the peculiar nature of infidel logic and "reason." Mr. Blatchford says that in the universe which Science has revealed to man there are "20 millions of living, moving, radiant suns with all their wonderful revolving planets, &c." Now this dogmatic assertion is the merest speculation for no planet has ever been discovered by the most powerful telescope except the seven belonging to our own system. This doubly unfounded statement is another example of infidel credulity where "science" is concerned, especially any so-called "science" which opposes Bible teaching.

The editor then proceeds to blaspheme the Holy Name, which he flippantly and frequently repeats. He says of the great Being claiming this peculiar Name that—"He was fickle, jealous, dishonourable, immoral, vindictive, barbarous, and cruel." . . . "He was a tribal God . . . the idol of a savage and ignorant tribe, Himself a savage and ignorant monster." He rashly indites other

and worse blasphemies against the God of Israel. But it is noteworthy how infidels contradict one another. Grant Allen says:—"The purely monotheistic conception of a single supreme God, the creator and upholder of all things, had been reached in all its sublime simplicity by the Jewish teachers centuries before the birth of the man Jesus." This is true to history; but the blatant blasphemy of *The Clarion* says that the Jews were "a savage and ignorant tribe." It is strange how such a people could give even Christians the most sublime conception of One and "The ONLY true God." It was in later times, as these writers have to confess, that Romanism foisted on to Christianity the Trinitarian ideas of paganism, with a multitude of lesser divinities, saints and mediators.

One objection sceptical writers bring against the God of Israel is that He is too "anthropomorphic," too much like a man. He can see, and hear, and taste and smell; and walk about a garden in the cool of the day. They seem to want a God, if they have one at all, that can neither hear nor see, nor taste nor smell; one without body, parts or passions: a mere philosophical abstraction, like Euclid's definition of a point. An atom? No doubt such a god would suit them better than a living, righteous, sin-hating and all-scrutinizing Being or Personage, such as our Lord Jesus described His Father to be. And of Jesus, it is written that He, the Son of God (not the Deity Himself) was "the express image" of His Father's Person. The Holy Scriptures reveal only One supreme Deity, the Father of our Lord Jesus, who is the Christ, or Messiah, of Israel.

We are next treated to a long quotation from some apostate Congregational Minister, who is a semi-infidel, and who says that the early Bible conception of God is one we cannot now accept. To this Mr. B., with evident satisfaction, immediately adds:—

"With this I entirely agree. We cannot accept as the God of Creation this savage idol of an obscure tribe. We have renounced Him, and are ashamed of Him, not because of any later divine revelation, but because mankind" (that is, men like Mr. B.!) "have become too enlightened, too humane, and too honourable to tolerate Jehovah."

One cannot help exclaiming here, what "enlightened" men these infidels all are! And how humane and honourable too, as witnessed, for instance, by the facts of the French Revolution!

However, I only wish to deal here with their intelligence and logic as they make their boast of being more enlightened than we Christians, and so much more capable of reasoning. Let them therefore give us a reasonable proof that we are living on a whirling ball, turning us all topsy-turvy every twenty-four hours; and let them allow some competent zetetic to examine that proof for their and our mutual benefit. They ought to be able to silence a poor benighted zetetic, whose "evolution" has, in some way or other, been sadly neglected! Fancy Grant Allen, one of the masters of infidelity, tracing the "Evolution of the Idea of God," on the part of Israel, to "a stone idol carried about in a box or ark." Why, that very box, or ark, contained the Ten Commandments, written on stone, the sublime summary of all Moral Law, and these Commandments witnessed against this very "enlightened" and modern idea! If we must give up Revelation, and bow down before Evolution and "Reason," we should like the latter at least to be a little more cogent and convincing. Perhaps it is thought to be sufficient for the class of readers for whom it was originally intended? However, I will give, as briefly as I can, another specimen of "enlightened" reason, which *The Clarion* trumpets forth with its harsh and hollow sound. Next to the insignificance of the Bible Universe as compared with the modern "scientific conception," which Nunquam affirms is merely "as a candle to the sun," this editor delights in setting forth what he considers to be the "injustice" of God. It seems to be a favourite topic with such blatant blasphemers. But before quoting something of that which is written under this head I wish to refer to a previous paragraph in *The Clarion* of March 6th, page 5, column 4, where we have a short but interesting dissertation upon

"EARWIGS"!

The subject is Revelation, and the editor is examining the soundness or otherwise of "the theologian's logic." Now logic is supposed to be very near, and very dear, to the heart of the agnostic; and some of these "enlightened" gentlemen seem to think they possess a monopoly of this very desirable quality. There ought, therefore, to be no objection from such to our examination of their logic, and the use or uses to which it is, or may be, legitimately applied. Christians affirm that "If it is reasonable to

think there is a God, it cannot be unreasonable to believe that God would reveal Himself." To which Mr. Blatchford abruptly replies:—

"Is that logic? Suppose there is a God, there may be many reasons why He should not reveal Himself. He might not think the time had come. He might not think man worth it..... Should we hold it imperative on God to reveal Himself to the earwigs? No. We think *we* ought to have a revelation; but we should laugh at a revelation to the earwigs. Why? Because we regard the earwigs as so inferior to ourselves. But don't you think we may be so inferior to God that He may regard our superiority to the earwigs as a mere detail?"

Now I admit there is some force in the above reasoning as far as regards our inferiority to God; and I only regret that the writer so soon seems to forget his own logic and simile. He has probably read *Isa.* xl. 22. But the Mosaic account of Creation again rises up before him, and believing, as he does, in the globular and evolutionary theories of modern "science," he readily concludes and affirms that "the book of Genesis is a poetical representation of a story built up out of fables"! This is a very natural, and ever-present conclusion to a man holding such scientific "beliefs"; and there are "scientific faiths," and dogmas, as well as religious beliefs. Let the editor prove his scientific cosmogony is based on facts; let him prove, for instance, that the water of the ocean is not level, but convex, then his conclusions regarding Genesis and Revelation would be logical. But he must first prove his premises, as we have already challenged him to. Will he attempt it, or will he shirk the question, and pretend it is beneath his notice? We know the trick, but we shall see. The question has to be squarely and fairly met before the deductions of infidelity can be placed upon even a logical basis. Zetetics challenge their basis; and until it is proved they can afford to smile at infidel attacks on Bible Cosmogony. However, we will now briefly examine their logic on this further question of the "Injustice" of God.

In the issue for April 24th the editor of *The Clarion* says:—

"Jehovah was a savage war god, and as such was impotent to save the tribe who worshipped him..... He cursed the seed of Adam, and in the time of Noah he decided to drown all the people on earth except Noah's family"....."all the innocent animals as well." "He further ordered the Israelites to destroy all the Canaanites," &c., &c.

Now admitting the truth of these awful and primitive calamities,

would it not be proper, and agreeable to sound logic, to enquire into their recorded cause, the wickedness and the cruel atrocities practised by those idolatrous and barbarous nations? But no! Mr. B. reveals no taste at all for such a reasonable enquiry; but rather, right and left, he pitches into "the blood-thirsty vindictiveness" of what he professes to believe, from Grant Allen, was originally a mere "stone idol," of "portable size," "carried about in a box or ark." This is a curious psychical phenomenon! It might throw some esoteric light on the subject if we had space to pursue it. However, we must now keep to the question of Logic. But refer to *Rom.* viii. 7. When Nunquam wrote so vigorously about the barbarity and vindictiveness of a stone idol, carried about in a box, he seems to have forgotten his logic, and to betray a conscienceness that the Ten Commandments had something more behind them than two tables of stone? The Law of God was engraved thereon, and he seems to have felt it. If so his wrath was the expression of "enmity" against Jehovah. In this case it is a pity that some faithful assistant, or sub-editor, was not near enough to whisper one of his own words in his ear, an expressive though not very dignified word, namely—"Earwigs"! If Dangle had done this it might have made the editor jump a little in his humane reverie; but it would have proved the most friendly earwig that ever entered a man's ear. It might even, according to the old superstition, have entered into his brain, though this is doubtful.

I wonder if the editor ever killed an earwig? Say one that kept buzzing about his ears and annoying him? Would he crush one if it threatened his children's ears? Or if a number of these insignificant creatures infested his house, or his office, and he killed some of them, or ordered his servants to do it for him, would he consider such epithets as "savage," "blood-thirsty," &c., as suitable descriptions of his conduct? If the earwigs could talk, one more impertinent than the rest might call him "a brutal unspeakable monster," especially if he ordered the destruction of the she-earwigs, with their young ones; but I fancy Mr. B. would only smile at their puerile protests and impotent presumption. They are "so inferior."

Now, Mr. Editor, would it not, in such a case, be reasonable and logical to ask you in your own words:—"Don't you think *we*

may be so inferior to God that"—&c., &c.? I will not finish the argument, nor wait for a reply, as I must proceed with a few thoughts about

EVOLUTION.

According to modern science and enlightenment the universe is self-evolved, and originated from gas or nebulous matter. Where this gas came from we are not told; but in the beginning—millions and millions of years ago, and before the sun could measure years—this gas became hot, amazingly hot, and luminous. How it became originally hot we are not informed. But in course of time—again millions of years, of course—the atoms of this luminous gas cooled down, as might be expected. As they cooled down a "law" came along, called "gravitation"; and every tiny atom, in obedience to this law, began to stretch out innumerable long and filamentous fingers—millions of miles long—to clutch at every other atom in the universe. What a tugging and a pulling then ensued! Some billions and billions of them pulled so hard at each other that they eventually got together, and formed a nucleus which finally condensed into a sun. Why *all* the atoms in the universe did not come together is a mystery; as they were all equally vigorous at the pulling process. It is also a mystery where the "law" came from which started the pulling process; as also how the atoms had been spending their time before this everlasting struggle began. Perhaps it was a case of "the survival of the fittest?" Or perhaps some of their filamentous fingers, or threads, by which they pulled each other, got broken? Of course they could not pull each other, "at a distance," without some kind of fingers or pulling tackle. But the atoms which succeeded in attracting each other formed themselves into a sun. They naturally kept cooling themselves down, and of course condensing; yet, strange to say, while they condensed by cooling they generated more heat, and so the fire of the sun is kept up. This would be an economical way of saving coal, and other household fuel, if we could only apply the principle in daily life and common practice. However, to make a long story short, the sun threw off a red hot cinder, a very large one, which, while soft and plastic, made itself into a "globe" by whirling. This is where the globe came from. It was not quite spherical on account of the whirling, which made it bulge out at the equator; so that when a suitable "crust" was formed, the rivers which came to

cross this equator might flow up and over a mountain thirteen miles high! This, of course, is all according to "natural law," and agrees with modern science! Evolution, therefore, is supposed by the *Clarion* family to be more reasonable than the Bible account of Creation. The idea of Creation must go, so that they can get rid of the idea of a personal Creator. This is the secret of their opposition to natural and Biblical Cosmogony. If they prefer the idea of evolution, they are welcome to it; but it requires and gives birth to the further idea of the evolution of life upon the so-called planet or globe. In short, the globular theory is the logical basis of all evolutionary dogmas. Now how did life, organic life, spring up on a red hot whirling and fiery ball? Of course it had to cool down sufficiently first. Condensation in the case of the "globe" failed to keep up its original temperature. But this is a mere detail. Perhaps the thin "crust" prevented it. The great question is how did human beings ever arrive on such a giddy ball? Evolution! Evolution is the infidel's god and creator; and, alas! it is rapidly taking the place of the Creator, and Father of our Lord Jesus, in the minds of some professing Christians. But evolution is infidelity; for no consistent evolutionist can believe in the God of the Holy Scriptures. I may here quote a short paragraph from a sermon preached by Dr. Talmage in 1898, on Evolution. He says:—

"At the present time the air is filled with social, platform, and pulpit talk about evolution; and it is high time that people who have no time to make investigations for themselves, should understand that evolution in the first place is out-and-out infidelity."..... "The Bible account is, 'God created man in His own image'....."not a perfect Kangaroo, or a perfect orang-outang, but a perfect man."..... "The evolutionist account is: Away back in the ages, there were four or five primal germs, or seminal spores, from which all the living creatures have been evolved. Go away back and there you will find a vegetable stuff that might be called a mushroom. This mushroom by innate force develops a tadpole; the tadpole by innate force develops a polywog; the polywog develops a fish; the fish by natural force develops into a reptile; the reptile develops into a quadruped; the quadruped in course of time develops into a baboon; and

THE BABOON DEVELOPS INTO A MAN"!

Well! I say again, the man whose "reason" allows him to believe in the above, or any similar creed, is quite welcome to feast his soul on such mental garbage; but he should in all consistency confess his creed in the camp of the infidel, and not in that of the Christian. I prefer to go to the garden of Eden, for my ancestors,

rather than to the zoological gardens. It suits my reason better. Ministers of religion who hold modern evolutionary theories, should have the honesty and the manliness to give up positions of trust where they have promised to preach Bible doctrines they no longer believe. Blatchford is at least honest in this respect; he does not obtain money or social position and influence under false pretences. He honestly confesses his belief and his unbelief. He is not like some of the lower and down-grade critics, a wolf in sheep's clothing; for he does attack the Bible in his own wolfish attire. But he is illogical, as we have already seen; and, like most infidels, very credulous where so-called "science" is concerned. He professes a righteous indignation against the judgments of a God, who, according to his unbelief, never existed; but against Evolution, which, according to his creed, is responsible for all the catastrophies that ever happened to mankind, he has not a word to say. It is strange! Is it not? It is a curious psychological phenomenon. So he prints without compunction, in *The Clarion* for June 19th, under heading "The Laws of Evolution," a paragraph from which, to justify my assertion, I will quote the following:—

"The mighty tragedies that have enveloped nations in disaster, and swept races from the scene of activity, are easily comprehended. The mystery has vanished. Beneath the vast revolutions that have demolished thrones, and swept empires into oblivion, are the immutable laws of evolution."

So that after all, Evolution, or "the laws of evolution," are responsible for all the wars, all the bloodshed, and all the atrocities ever recorded by history. Yet, although Evolution is said to have "annihilated civilisations," not a word of protest is uttered by the humane and enlightened sceptic. He wisely and meekly folds his arms under the influence of the iron and immutable laws of necessity! But let the Bible only reveal that the Creator of the world commanded certain righteous judgments to be executed on idolatrous nations, who practised human sacrifices and other atrocities on women and children, then the carnal and biassed mind of the unbeliever, forgetting its usual reserve, makes him pick up his *Clarion* that he may trumpet forth a fierce blast against what he is pleased to call "the injustice of Jehovah"! It is strange, very strange! If sceptics would only show themselves consistent and logical in such conduct, it might prove some compensation for their

lack of reasoning power. But a limited space warns me to conclude. Before doing so I wish to remind my fellow Christians of an apostolic but almost forgotten

WORD OF WARNING.

The Apostle Paul, who as a man was no mean scholar and reasoner, as proved by his Epistle to the Romans, when writing to the brethren at Colosse reminds them that "In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." And he reminded them of this "Lest any man should beguile them with enticing words." If a man therefore reject the Christ of God, the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden from him. He becomes an unsafe guide or leader. Now what was Christ's attitude towards the divine cosmogony revealed through Moses? He endorsed Moses' writings; and the man, or minister, who does not believe *the writings* of Moses, cannot really believe the words of Christ. See *John v. 47*. Paul says: "The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." And again: "He taketh the wise in their own craftiness," *1 Cor. iii. 19*. When will Christians learn that there is a subtle and deep-laid plot for the overthrowing of their faith? There is a fascination and a subtlety in speculative sciences which, for a time, veils their sceptical trend. In schools and in colleges, without suspecting or calling in question their hypothetical character, we have unconsciously imbibed their false doctrines, before we could see where these "scientific" theories were leading us. Especially is this true with regard to cosmic theories, or cosmological "science." We Christians have need to be on the alert, to watch, and to "prove all things"; especially those things which concern the revelation of God's Word and His Works. His purpose, and our own hope of life and immortality through His beloved and resurrected Son require this. Apart from Jesus, the Christ, we have no hope of any immortality; for, as Paul says, Christ brought "life and immortality to life through the Gospel." Let us therefore take heed to the warning of Paul, who says:—

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." *Col. ii. 8*.

Once a man is spoiled through philosophical speculations, he becomes unfit for immortality. These speculations, or theories,

abound at the present time. So that in the closing days of this dispensation we have more need than ever to give heed to the above apostolic warning. Faith is departing, and infidelity is waxing bold in the name of so-called "science." It is as though some deep and subtle power were co-ordinating the various branches of "science," so that their united influence might be directed to the undermining of all faith in God's Word and in God's Son. Bible doctrines are denied, or, what is perhaps worse, distorted. But one point is clear, Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and no man can come to the Father but by Him. Men of eminence in "science" are mostly infidels, because they trust in their own natural ability to find out all about the higher truths of the universe. If they heed not the warnings which God has graciously given through His servants they will be "taken in their own craftiness." "The wages of sin is death"—not life in torment for ever,—and there are mental sins as well as physical sins, which lead to destruction or death. When a man, because of his scientific beliefs, loses faith in the Bible, and in the God of the Bible, what hope can he have of eternal life through our Lord Jesus? These considerations ought to show everyone, and especially the humble Christian,

THE IMPORTANCE OF A CORRECT COSMOGONY,

A false cosmogony is leading thousands to infidelity and to death. The infidel says:—

"As we are whirled upon our spinning and glowing planet through the unfathomable spaces, where myriads of suns, like golden bees, gleam through the awful mystery of the vast void night, what are the phantom gods to us?"—*Clarion*, April 24, 1903.

If we, by the mercy of God, have escaped this "vast void of night," shall we leave others to perish in it? We Zetetics know that the world is not "a planet," but a plane; and the plane-earth truth knocks the bottom out of the Evolution theory, with its dark and hopeless godlessness. Let us therefore do all we can to save others from unconsciously imbibing the fatal poison of this evolutionary science, a "science falsely so-called."

Let us warn our children as they go to school. Let us try to aid others by voice or by pen; and by scattering literature, or pamphlets, upon the Plane truth. God, through His servant Moses, began the Bible revelation with a formal account of the Creation

of the World. We should begin there. We must come back to this Divine Cosmogony. He instituted the Sabbath as its weekly memorial; but both, alas! have alike been forgotten. We must come back to first principles. The world ere long will be divided into two camps, and we shall have to take our place in one or the other. Zetetics, or Planists, will be last to give up their faith in the Divine inspiration of the Holy Bible. True Zetetics will never give it up. But the last battle of Inspiration will have to be fought on these lines. Real Facts will help us; Nature will help us; and God will help us. The down-grade critics, the scientists, the infidels, and the devil will oppose. They all attack the Cosmogony of Genesis, and only the Christian Zetetic can stand intelligently to it. Let us therefore buckle on our armour, and quit ourselves like men and Christians; and so we shall save ourselves, and our children, from this apostate and untoward generation. "If God be for us, who can be against us"? Remember:—

"When our Lord Jesus Christ shall be revealed from heaven, with His mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall be punished with everlasting *destruction*;".....then "He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was belied) **IN THAT DAY.**" *Paul.*

"Amen, even so, come Lord Jesus."



Printed and published by

LADY BLOUNT, Editor of "The Earth" and "The Sabbath of Creation,"
11, GLOUCESTER ROAD, KINGSTON HILL, SURREY.