

SCIENCE UPHOLDS BIBLE.

NO LONGER ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO.

Startling Theories of the Author of "Genesis and Modern Science" - Six Days for Creation, Not Our Days, However - Interesting Conclusions Drawn by the Writer.

Was the earth created in six days? Is the Bible right, and are its critics wrong? Can the conflict between the Bible and science be amicably adjusted at last? To these queries an affirmative answer is given in a striking volume called "Genesis and Modern Science," which is just from the press. Warren R. Perce, a Newport, R. I., lawyer, is the author of this remarkable book. He has been at work on it for some twenty years, and his explanation of the process of creation and its literal agreement with the Bible is not only sensational, but has the ring of plausibility.

Mr. Perce interprets the Bible through the science of geology and astronomy. The theory that the solar system was created in six days, not days, however, as judged by modern standards, is scientifically demonstrated. The Bible, Mr. Perce avers, is not a text book of science. If the first chapter of Genesis had set forth the creation of the world in full detail, with the origin and laws of matter, the constitution and movements of the sun and planets, such statements could not have been understood at that time.

But the Bible must be consistent with science. The Scriptures need not say everything, but all they say must be true. Starting with the nebular hypothesis that the planets revolving around the sun were in the beginning rings of flaming matter thrown off by the sun, Mr. Perce holds that the earth and other worlds were formed by the cooling and condensing of these rings in the cold atmosphere. The inner part cooled first and drew together, leaving the outer mass still flaming with incandescent light. This was the creation of the first day out of primal darkness—the outcome of the command, "Let there be light."

THE QUESTION OF LIGHT.

This may be said to explain away, in a measure, the point urged by some critics:—"How could there be light upon the earth before the sun shone upon it, which was not until the fourth day, according to the Bible?" Science and the Bible are at one here. But ages were consumed in this process. How can it be called a day? The day could not have signified the time between sunrise and sunset, for there was no sun—no earth in our sense. They were only masses of glowing gases. The real definition of day, according to Mr. Perce, must be a period of darkness, followed by a period of cosmic, or solar, light. The first day, then, was ages long, succeeding the night of chaos.

As the mass of the earth cooled down, becoming more dense, it glowed less and less, some of its substance passing from a gaseous to a liquid state, and the atmosphere was formed, reaching, doubtless, to the moon. Through these vapors the light of the earth grew dimmer and dimmer, and at last glowed no more. This was the second night.

The vapors cooled by the air fell in rain and cooled the earth, and then rose by its heat, forming clouds. The ocean was then boiling water, but as it cooled steam no longer rose, the waters were divided from the waters, there were clouds above, oceans and lakes beneath. Then first the sun's rays reached the earth, piercing the vapory clouds. This was the second day, and again science and the Bible agree.

But now the earth was still cooler, and the inner portion having cooled more rapidly than the outer the crust was not evenly supported, and fell in ridges, like an apple when the pulp has dried and the skin becomes wrinkled. The ocean flowed into the valleys, and the mountain tops appeared, just as the Bible states:—"Let the dry land appear."

Geology shows which portion of the authoritatively said to be the azoic earth was first appeared. They are (without life) rocks which underlie Canada, Newfoundland and similar geological foundations. In this way the most solid part of the earth and the heaviest was toward the north, and as it emerged from the water the centre of gravity of the earth was changed.

THE EARTH SWINGS AROUND.

It had been revolving with its equator perpendicular to the ecliptic, the path in which the earth travels round the sun. It now swung around on account of the greater weight at the north, which was attracted by the sun, until the equator was coincident with the ecliptic. The consequence of this was that the northern hemisphere always turned to the sun, would have an unending day, the southern perpetual night. This is precisely the case with the moon to-day. The same side of the moon is always presented to the earth.

Science shows that the Arctic regions were formerly the warmest portion of the earth's surface. Their temperature, geologists say, must have been tropical. The great coal beds of green land and Northumbria prove this, for coal is nothing but tropical plants which have decomposed under water.

Greenland, and water lilies floated on what are now Arctic lakes. The theory that the sun shone upon the northern hemisphere alone is said to be the only explanation of the formation of coal in the north and its absence from the land south of the equator. The third day, then, corresponds to what the geologists call the paleozoic age, which was one long day for the northern hemisphere, where the vegetable life spoken of on this day in the Bible was created in great luxuriance.

And now comes one of the most startling of Mr. Perce's theories. This third day, he claims, might have continued forever if the earth had not again changed its position relative to the ecliptic. But just as it had swung round at the close of the second day, so again a change took place, though due to a different cause. The south, being in perpetual night and so far from the sun, was soon covered with ice. As this ice grew thicker and heavier the sun drew the great weight toward itself, and the earth's angle changed to that of our time.

Then first was there a variation of seasons as recorded of the fourth day in the Bible, and the stars and sun began to play their part upon the whole earth. Mr. Perce calls attention to the fact that here the Hebrew Bible uses the word for making or appearing, not creating. Geology, it would appear, also supports this view, showing that some great change took place at the close of the paleozoic age.

With the mesozoic age came the fifth and sixth days. The author frankly confesses that geologists find fish long before this, but he states that the Bible does not mention marine plants, and the word translated "great whales" must refer to the great reptiles, the ichthyosaurus and plesiosaurus. Then geology would agree with the Bible that birds and such reptiles belong to the fifth stage of creation. Geology confirms the Bible also by declaring the creation of mammals last in order before man.

AS TO ANIMAL CREATION.

Both the Bible and geology distinctly affirm the separate creations of each species of animals and disprove the theory that the higher order of animals, including man himself, have been developed from lower forms. If it were true that one order or genus was developed into another, the book asserts, we ought to find somewhere in the rocks specimens of the intermediate forms which linked the old with the new, but such is not the case.

The Scriptural history of creation is one of phenomena, not causes or processes. It remains for science to step in as the interpreter, filling out the blank spaces in accord with the Bible. The tendency among geologists is to greatly shorten geological time, among theologians to lengthen their estimates of man's existence on earth. It would not be at all strange if all agreed that Adam was created about fifteen thousand years ago, and what has been called prehistoric man is really a descendant of Adam. Mr. Perce's theories are certainly startling, and the mass of scientific support and authority which he has called to his aid is overpowering. His book should arouse no end of discussion.

THIRD CENTENARY OF THE FORK.

Three Hundred Years Ago Lords and Ladies, Even Emperors, Ate With Their Fingers.

There are every day, if we wished to celebrate them, anniversaries of some kind or other. The third centenary of that modest and useful utensil the fork, is just at hand, and should not be passed by in silence. It is three hundred years since that very necessary instrument was known and used in France. It is much more recent than the spoon, which was obligatory in all ages for the consuming of liquid foods.

As to solid foods, they were eaten in the style of Adam. The nobility and wealthy adopted the fork about 1600; it did not become common among the lower classes for more than a hundred years afterward. For two hundred years it has been in common use. This knowledge does not seem to have been general, for at a representation of Moliere's "Bourgeois Gentilhomme" the characters are represented as eating with forks at a repast served in one of the principal scenes, when to be entirely correct they should pick the dainties out of the dishes placed before them with their fingers.

The fork became a general fashion among the nobility in 1600. Henry IV. used it entirely, because Tallemont des Reaux tells us of a plot against the King, in which it was decided to poison him by means of a fork. In the hollow prongs of which the poison was to be inserted, and would then flow into the morsel he was eating. A curious pamphlet of 1605 pictures a strange country, in which the inhabitants, instead of eating with their fingers, as all the world did, used this strange utensil.

HER IDEA.

Mr. Honk, looking up from his newspaper—What barbarians those African natives are! I have just been reading that the Wallagi tribe, to whom Rev. Mr. Whoopler was sent as a missionary a few months ago, became incensed at the doctrines he preached and dragged him before their King, who, without trial, promptly cut off the clergyman's sacerdotal functions. Mrs. Honk—Horror! And was it fatal?

CO-OPERATIVE.

He—It's love that makes the world go round. She—But it's riches that keeps the axel greased.

NATURAL COLOR OF SEALSKINS.

Sealskins are originally of a light drab color, but as found in the market are always dyed.

THE FAMILY YAWN.

The yawn is becoming popular. It used to be considered a sign of weariness or boredom, but we are told that it is not only this. We are informed that there are various types of the genus yawn. Of course there is the gape, that undeniably indicates drowsiness and in which one is supposed to indulge only in the privacy of one's sleeping-apartment. But, besides this, there are yawns of nervousness, of chilliness, of headache, of excitement, of apprehension, of grief. In accordance with this idea it would seem that the yawn is the most complete and satisfactory form of expression.

Seriously, it is time we checked this growing habit. Whatever may be said to the contrary, to gape openly, or with the attempt to smother the action, is rude to the person with whom one is talking, and calls for an apology. If one is not well or is very weary, a yawn is perhaps impossible to suppress, but the perpetrator thereof should ask pardon of his companion and explain that while he is interested in the conversation he is so weary that the weak flesh declines to obey the dictates of the willing spirit. But the ordinary yawn is largely a matter of habit. We have seen all the members of a family who exercised no restraint in this direction, but who openly gaped in one another's faces until the stranger in their midst found his jaws aching with irrepresible sympathy. The father yawned audibly, finishing the performance with a long-drawn-out "Ah-h!" The son followed suit, but completed his effort with a peculiar click of the jaw, as if he had there a hidden spring which needed oiling. The mother's yawn was of the gasping variety, while the pretty daughter tapped her mouth with the tips of her fingers as she parted her rosy lips to give vent to the family weakness. She performed this tattoo as if the action was a sort of apology for the yawn.

Perhaps it is because we are so often tired and in need of rest that this unsightly habit has grown upon us. If so, let us exercise the habit of self-control which is also ours, and determine to suppress the encroaching yawn.

PAPER SHIRTS.

The ever-inventive Japanese are now making underclothing of their finely crisped or grained paper. It is very tough, and at the same time very flexible. The paper is not sized, and is not impermeable, and when it has been wetted it is difficult to tear; in fact, it presents almost the same difficulty to tear with the hand as does the kid used for ladies' gloves. The garments made of this paper are cut to shape and then put together by means of a needle and thread, and the places which require buttons and buttonholes are strengthened with pieces of calico or linen. One might imagine that a paper shirt would feel somewhat stiff and uncomfortable, but it seems that this is not so, and that after it has been worn an hour or two it no more interferes with the transpiration of the body than would one of cotton or linen.



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N. B.—To ensure a first-class job the hides must be salted as soon as taken

THEY READ THE PAPERS.

Teacher—Don't any of you know how to find mountains on the map? Now, look at this map of Alaska. What is that row or chain of dark, round spots? Class in Chorus—Nuggets.

FLOWERS OF SPEECH.

Is it swearing to call a man a blooming fool? No; only flowery language.

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Webster's International Dictionary

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