

statement is with human theory, there is in it vivid description of the further solidifying of earth and of its drawing to itself an atmosphere of its own. But long ages of preparation had yet to pass before earth was in any degree like the world we know. A crust would by degrees solidify around its seething interior, only to be broken up again and re-melted as it fell into the liquid mass; sheets of heated matter would be drawn within its atmosphere and fall in fiery ruin upon the thin exterior, breaking it up and hurling dense clouds of boiling metallic vapor into the upper sky; hot showers of lava would antedate our rains and snows and hail; gradually, however, this utter chaos became legible design, and the three great conditions of matter—solid, liquid, and gaseous—would differentiate into somewhat their present consistency. [Verses 9, 10]. Thus far, to our vision, God has wrought in matter under what might be called the law of movement, having to do only with inorganic results. How many thousands, or thousands of thousand years were consumed we have no way of judging with any accuracy. Toward the end of the third great creative day, however, earth and atmosphere are in condition to be impressed with a further revelation of the Almighty and of his vitalizing spirit. [Verses 11, 12, 13]. Here we have the first statement of organic law. The life of the plant is a very different thing from the merely attractive, gravitative, adhesive and chemical forces thus far in play. God must anew intervene, for never yet has matter under any force resident in it given birth—so far as our science tells us—to a single life-cell, vegetable or animal.

A new German work which one of my classes will shortly read will give the history of the hard-fought battle of the scientists over this question, and the total defeat of that party which maintained the possibility of spontaneous germination. Neither does this assert that any new quality was given matter. We do not yet know the process by which the organized cell—protoplasm, you call it—generates amidst the inorganic matter about it; nor even by what innate power it absorbs earthy, mineral, watery, gaseous nutriment from its surroundings and weaves it into flesh, blood, bone, and brains. "God