The Scientists at Prayers

Samuel Storrs Howe
Minerva sprang from the brain of Jupiter (the chief heathen deity), full armed as the Goddess of War. Why not Christians receive the literal facts of the supernatural creation of Adam out of the dust, and Eve out of Adam, as Matthew Henry says on the text of Moses, "that God took woman not out of the head of Adam, lest she should overtop him; nor out of his feet, lest she should be inferior to him, but out of his side and near his heart, that she might be a companion and equal?" The very fitness of things, therefore, makes it just as reasonable a fact, that God made supernaturally man and woman, a perfect man and a perfect woman in the instant of creation as to be ages about it. Such a theory, of demiurgic periods, as some men of science claim by stretching out days into indefinite periods of ages, is harder to be believed than heathen myths. God forbid, that any persons in a Christian and enlightened age should pervert the Bible, that only supernatural book to be received by faith, as containing the true philosophy of heaven, and not of science, falsely so called.

This brief essay on the supernatural character of the Bible should be further extended. It is the source of all "supernatural science," to which human "faith" and reason are to be directed, and not diverted from this supernatural book. All the miracles of the Old and New Testaments are only solvable and explainable on scriptural grounds, or on principles of supernatural science. A future article will set forth this view and expose the shallow sophistry of "philosophy," falsely so called. Meanwhile the ANNALS are open to other writers of contrary or different views of geology and philosophy.

THE SCIENTISTS AT PRAYERS.

The American Association for the Advancement of science, held its thirty-second annual Session at Minneapolis, Minn., August 15th to 22d inclusive. For the last four or five years, it has been a feature of the Association to hold a prayer-meeting on the Sabbath, midway of the session in the afternoon. This year it was held in the Westminster Presbyterian
church (west side), while the regular sessions of the Association were held at the State University. The meeting was a very precious one to all Christians present, because of its earnest and devout spirit, and was a most decided refutation of the charge that the majority of our scientists are either infidels or skeptics.

The leader remarked that the earliest teaching of literature or science imposed and taught the worship of God as Creator and Preserver. He then read the 19th and 42d Psalms, as the lesson of the hour.

Principal Dr. J. W. Dawson, of McGill College, Montreal, Canada, followed with remarks. Said he: "Men of science are not antagonistic to true religion, they are seeking truth. Paul certainly, and also Luke, among the apostles, should be ranked with the Scientists of their day. He thanked God that true religion was revealed unto babes, while it was hid from the wise and prudent. There is no incongruity between the pursuit of truth in science, and a devout and God-fearing spirit."

Prof. Young, of Princeton, N. J., President of the Association for this year, followed with similar remarks, declaring that this was not an irreligious association, but one that realized its responsibility to the Maker of all and reverently added, "we need a stronger and more living faith."

Rev. Dr. Hovey, of New Haven, Conn., the originator of the Association's prayer-meeting said: "We seek the truth, seek it earnestly, humbly, yet fearlessly; being assured that from these efforts, no detriment can come to true revealed religion. I feel very kindly to all sincere inquirers and learners." He then referred to the devout spirit of scientists, and instanced the first message sent by telegraph, viz: "What hath God wrought," and also to the other first one, when the telegraph encircled this round world of ours, to-wit: "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will towards men!" These remarks and others were interspersed with praise.