

**THE CYCLE OF DEVELOPMENT: OR,
ESSAYS IN ILLUSTRATION OF THE
ORDER, UNIFORMITY, AND
INVARIABLE SEQUENCE IN THE
CYCLICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MAN**

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The Cycle of Development: or, Essays in Illustration of the Order, Uniformity, and Invariable Sequence in the Cyclical Development of Man by Hodder M. Westropp

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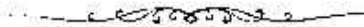
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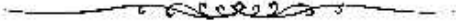
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HODDER M. WESTROPP

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THE CYCLE OF DEVELOPMENT.



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KΥΚΛΟΣ ΑΝΑΓΚΗΣ.

Pythagorus.

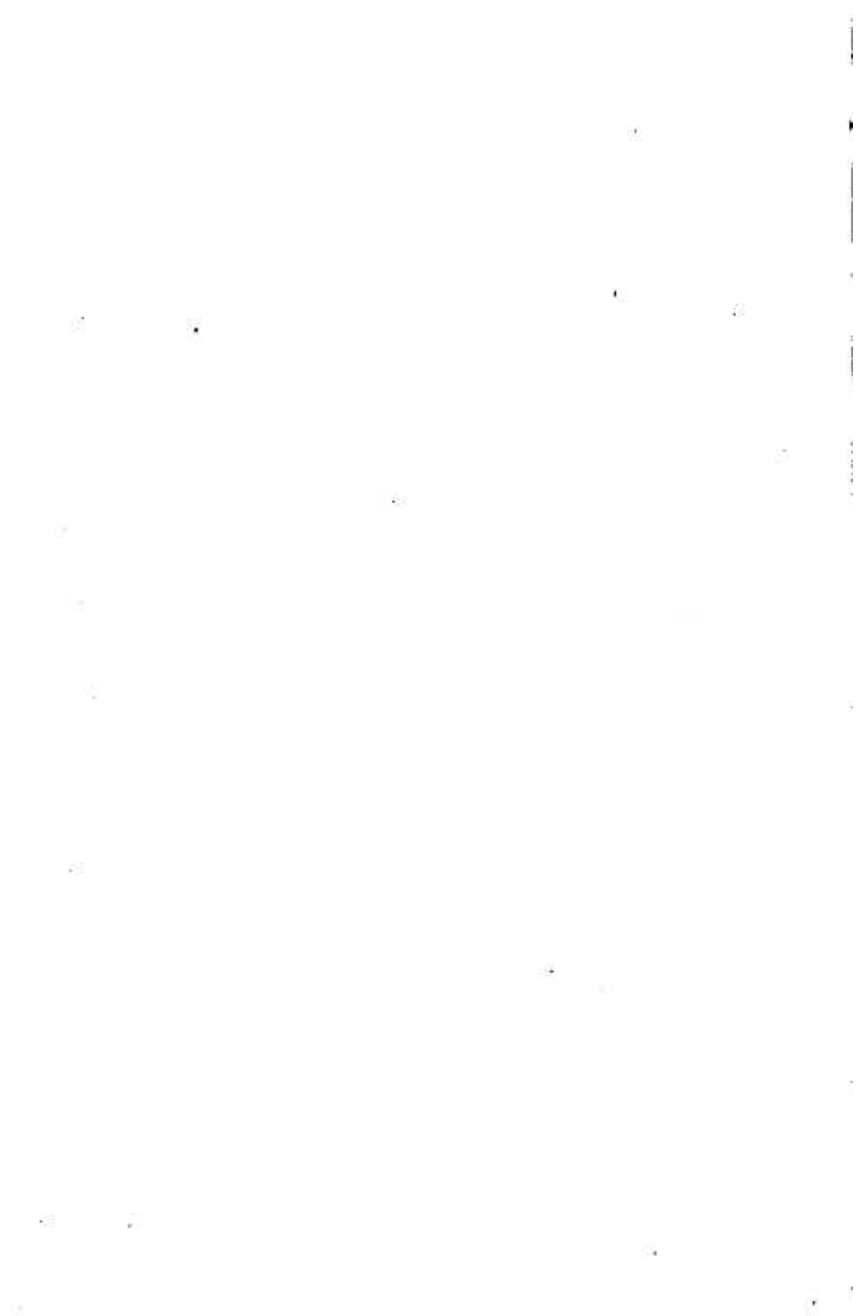
REBUS HUMANIS INEST QUIDAM ORBIS.

Tacitus.

BY
HODDER M. WESTROPP.

GEORGE BELL & SONS, LONDON.

1881.



PREFACE.

In this treatise, I would endeavour however feebly and tentatively, to point out the order, uniformity, and sequence visible in man, in his development, his actions, his ideas, his beliefs, as well in the individual, as collectively; to indicate also the same principle of order, sequence, and uniformity which presides over the development of societies and nations.

The individual man has his stages of development in an invariable sequence, his infancy, childhood, youth, manhood, maturity, decline, decay, and death.

Nations (man collectively) have also their analogous stages, their rise, progress, maturity, decline, decay, and extinction.

The same order and sequence of development may be traced, not only in the individual man, and in nations, but also in all that has growth and progress, in the arts, language, religion, &c.

This is a paramount law, for in the universe, from the larva of the butterfly, through man, to the entire cosmical system, all is progress in order and in sequence through successive stages of development. Progress through these successive stages is the order through which all things that have growth must necessarily move.

The course of the progress, which I would speak of here, is not, as usually understood, progress, continuously, in a straight line; it is progress in a circle, in a circumscribed orbit. Starting

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from an initial point, it returns to the same point again, thus completing a cycle of development.*

I would thus bring into prominence this cycle of development which is the invariable and necessary law of the progress and growth visible in all things, in man and in nature.

In every cycle there is a rise, progress, and a culminating point, when every development reaches its highest point of perfection and fulness, which is manifested at the period of its existence by the beauty and perfection which it attains to at that stage; and it is further the inevitable law of all development, all evolution, the tendency of all things after having reached maturity, a culminating point, to pursue a downward course, to decline, decay, and become extinct. Man and nations, art and nature, are equally subject to this law.

A law of progress, of evolution is evident, but there is also a law of retrogression and dissolution. There is a tide in the life of the individual man, as well as in that of man collectively. Each has its rise and fall, its ebb and flow, its progress and retrogression. There is an orderly advance and an orderly retrogression, there is a rise, progress, culminating point, and then the necessary sequels, decline and decay; a cycle of development in all things. A cycle in the life of man individually, in the life of social man, in the life of races of men, nations, arts, in all animal life, in the course of the day, of the year, in everything, in fine, that has life, growth, and development.

In the laws of evolution and development there are no sudden leaps; each stage forms a stepping-stone to the next stage.

* "Consider the cycle of operations by which the seed produces the plant, the plant the flower, the flower again the seed, the causal line returning with the fidelity of a planetary orbit to its original point of departure."—PROFESSOR TYNDAL. —*Virchow and Evolution.*"

PREFACE.

In the development of the laws of nature and science, each truth is the result of a former truth ; each fact is the stepping-stone to the solution of another fact ; each thought is the germ of another thought. There is thus a sequence and a continuity in all things ; one thing grows out of, or is evolved from, another.

I would thus claim for the actions of man, individually and collectively, and for the development of the phenomena of the human mind, the same laws of order, uniformity, and sequence which belong to all parts of the material world ; and following that principle, which is the essence of all induction, the conviction of the universal and permanent uniformity of nature, would also put in a claim for a similar conviction of the existence of the sequence of the same stages of cyclical development in man as we see in nature ; the same stages of rise, progress, maturity, decline, decay, and dissolution.

I now put forward the seven following propositions, with their corollaries, and then enter into a further development of this view.