

**A VISION OF  
CREATION: A POEM**

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A Vision of Creation: A Poem by Cuthbert Collingwood

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**CUTHBERT COLLINGWOOD**

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CREATION: A POEM**



OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

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# A VISION OF CREATION,

A Poem,

WITH AN INTRODUCTION, GEOLOGICAL & CRITICAL,

By CUTHBERT COLLINGWOOD,

M. A. & B. M. OXON.; F. L. S., &c.

Author of "Rambles of a Naturalist on the Shores and Waters of the China Sea," &c.

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"Powerful and able. . . . Upon the whole, the 'Vision of Creation' is a well-sustained, a thoughtfully wrought-out, and an effective poem."—*Scotsman*.

"He treats his sublime subject in lines dignified and thoughtful. The grand majestic measure of Milton, and the powerful blank verse of Thomson are both recalled in some of the books of 'A Vision of Creation.' Now are the lighter graces of poetry neglected. Dr Collingwood has produced a poem which men of mature years will ponder over with instruction and delight."—*Morning Post*.

"Many parts of the poem are exquisite in their language and imagery, and we cannot recall any description of the seasons more beautiful or poetic than that given by the Archangel. The description of Chaos, and of the ancient coal-forests, are striking features in the work which we should like to quote. We can only express the hope that our readers may derive as much pleasure from the perusal of Dr Collingwood's 'Vision of Creation' as we ourselves have done."—*Liverpool Albion*.

"This is no ordinary poem. Whether we look to its conception or execution, it possesses very considerable merit; and while it displays much imaginative power and artistic skill, it embodies also a great amount of natural philosophy—difficult as that is to treat in a poetic style. Fine lines and felicitous passages abound, which, with the constructive genius

displayed by the author throughout, are fitted to gratify all who devote more than a cursory glance to the volume. The 'Vision of Creation' is fitted to take high rank as a poem."—*Dumfries Standard*.

"As we may admire the 'Paradise Lost' without wholly admitting its historical accuracy, or accepting all its theological views, we may admire the 'Vision of Creation,' without believing in the truth of its cosmogony. As poetry, we think it has considerable merit. Its rhythm is easy, its descriptions are vivid, its sentiments are pure and noble."—*Intellectual Repository*.

"The 'Vision of Creation' is worthy of much praise. The poem is in lofty and musical blank verse, an admirable preface unfolding the whole scheme with great clearness and skill. Mr Collingwood is master of his subject, and writes with feeling, poetical taste, and power."—*Evening Standard*.

"Mr Collingwood has shewn in 'A Vision of Creation' that in him are combined the functions of the man of science and of the poet. The first part of the poem is occupied by a dialogue between the Seer and the Archangel, and there are passages here and there in this portion of the work of rare power and beauty. In Part II. the Vision of Creation is unfolded. The thought in this part of the work is highly elevated throughout, and clothed in language befitting the lofty character of the subject and the epic mould in which the poem is cast. The merits of the work taken as a whole, both as regards composition and execution, so greatly transcend its faults, that the latter are almost unworthy of mention."—*Literary World*.

"The author has worked out a well-conceived plan with clearness and precision of thought, and by means of the machinery introduced, and an appropriate use of imagery, has embellished his work with probably as much poetical grace as the simplicity of revelation and the severity of science might justify."—*Public Opinion*.

"The pictorial vigour, scientific accuracy, and force and appropriateness of expression, give these efforts to convey an idea of the marvellous work a peculiar attractiveness. The work is one in which we find power and originality, a fine imaginative vigour and definiteness of expression, and much that is excellent in every way. It is, indeed, in many respects, a noble conception, worthily realised. Indeed, seldom have poetry and science gone hand in hand more pleasantly or to better purpose than in this noble and impressive poem."—*Aberdeen Journal*.

A VISION OF CREATION.

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from the  
Author



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BY

CUTHBERT COLLINGWOOD,

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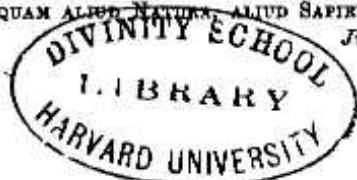
AUTHOR OF "FABLES OF A NATURALIST ON THE SHORES AND WATERS OF THE  
CHINA SEA," ETC.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION, GEOLOGICAL AND CRITICAL.

SECOND EDITION.

"NUNQUAM ALIUD NATURE, ALIUD SAPIENTIA DICIT."

*Juvenal, Sat. xiv. 321.*



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## Figure 1



## PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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It is the unfortunate characteristic of the present day that so many men are led to abandon all grounds of belief which do not appear to be included in the uncompromising intellectual process which they term *the scientific method*: in other words, to cast aside every source of exoteric evidence, on the ground that it cannot be embraced in, or evolved from, the results of pure reasoning.

It appears, however, to the writer, that as long as anything of the nature of *spirit* is admitted at all, it must be held to be impossible to argue directly to it from mere intellect, without the possession of some leavening of what he would call the "power of faith,"—faith that is in something beyond mere matter and force.

It is a sign of the times that this power of faith should be possessed by so few;—those who do not possess it substituting for it what they term "*scientific*" *faith*, which, while it rests on nothing more substantial than personal authority, and is therefore perfectly valueless, at the same time robs all who accept it of those evidences which we believe are destined ultimately to triumph, and to give a