

**WHERE DID LIFE
BEGIN? A
MONOGRAPH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649350773

Where Did Life Begin? A Monograph by G. Hilton Scribner

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WHERE DID LIFE BEGIN?

A BRIEF ENQUIRY AS TO THE PROBABLE PLACE OF
BEGINNING AND THE NATURAL COURSES OF
MIGRATION THEREFROM OF THE FLORA
AND FAUNA OF THE EARTH

A Monograph

BY

G. HILTON SCRIBNER

"Let the great world spin forever down the ringing grooves of change"

—LOCKSLY HALL

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

NEW YORK
CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1883

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PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING COMPANY
NEW YORK.

TO MY LIFE-LONG FRIEND,
THE HONORABLE CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW,
WITH WHOM, IN ALL THE DEPARTMENTS OF THOUGHT, I HAVE
SPENT SO MANY AND SUCH PLEASANT HOURS, THESE
FEW PAGES ARE, WITH SINCERE FRIENDSHIP
AND EARNEST GOOD-WILL, RESPECT-
FULLY DEDICATED BY
THE AUTHOR.

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PREFACE.

THE pressing duties of an ordinarily busy life, it might be supposed, would be quite sufficient to keep one not specially trained to scientific work from meddling with such matters as are presented in this brief monograph. Indeed, I have no good excuse for finding myself engaged in this business. It might, however, be said in extenuation that the topics I have been dealing with in these pages have occupied my attention from time to time, and the conclusions have been lightly held by me as mere probabilities for a long period. With later investigations and discoveries they began to crystallize into opinions, and have at length assumed the firmness of convictions. Having in an unguarded hour disclosed them to a party of friends well fitted to judge of their

possible correctness, I have by their opportunities allowed myself to be betrayed into print.

It has been my earnest desire, however, in writing these pages, to be as brief, concise, and straightforward as possible in all statements of fact, even where a little more elaboration might have made a more favorable impression. I have also striven to put forth my views in a plain garb, and I shall be abundantly satisfied if I have made myself understood; more than repaid if the few and crude suggestions I have gathered shall incite abler and better equipped men to enter this very interesting field of inquiry, and bring forth such good results as I am sure await the careful and conscientious investigator; and only regretful if I have used unwittingly any error for fact, or drawn, in the course of the argument, any false or unwarranted conclusions.

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