EVOLUTION EXPLAINED AND COMPARED WITH THE BIBLE; GIVING A SCIENTIFIC INTERPRETATION OF THE ATONEMENT

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Evolution explained and compared with the Bible; giving a scientific interpretation of the atonement by William Woods Smyth

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WILLIAM WOODS SMYTH

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COMPARED WITH THE BIBLE;

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WILLIAM WOODS SMYTH,

L.R.C.P., Fell. Med. Soc. Lon. ;

Author of "The Bible and the Doctrine of Evolution." "The Atonement and Modren Science." "The Government of God," etc.

Second Edition, enlarged.

London :

ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1883.

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I dedicate this Book—

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"Anto Him that lobed us, and washed us from our sins in His own Blood."

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

The Adversaries of the Doctrine of Evolution frequently say, that it has not been scientifically verified, and therefore, ought not to be accepted. Like the adversaries of the Bible, they demand evidence, which in the nature of the case cannot now be produced, and reject the light of such evidence as we do possess. But no man can do this and be truly honest. The jury box, and on their oath, is not the only place where upright men are called upon to decide their minds by *the weight of evidence*.

The whole evidence before our minds at this hour is divided into two classes. There is first, a limited amount of evidence which can be shown to harmonise both with the "special creation" doctrine, and with the doctrine of Evolution, and which therefore proves neither. And there is secondly, a larger amount of evidence, impossible to reconcile with the special creation hypothesis, but which supports entirely the Doctrine of Evolution. This, I contend, amounts to a legitimate proof of Evolution, and proves conclusively that the special creation hypothesis is untenable.

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But, if at present, we have not a sufficiency of evidence from Nature before us to entirely verify the Doctrine of Evolution, I contend that we find enough evidence from the Bible to give it scriptural proof, and give us, for the first time in all history, a *bona fide* Science of Religion, or a Theology in deed, and not in name only.

For a more extended treatment of the subject, I must refer the reader to "The Government of God." I have again to thank my cousin, R. Woods Colquboun, for aid rendered while the work was in the press.

W. W. S.

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Maidstone, March, 1883.



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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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The welcome appearance of other works, and of public interest in the subject of which this and other writings of mine treat, induce me to give of them a brief history.

Twelve years ago I read for the first time the "Origin of Species," by the late Charles Darwin. As I read that work its leading thoughts immediately united themselves in my mind with certain leading doctrines of the Bible. I next read the works of Mr. Herbert Spencer, and in like manner their manifold, and to me, manifest testimony to the truth of the Scriptures greatly interested and delighted me. This simple perception, (without my taking thought) of the profoundest harmony where others" as yet saw nothing but contradiction and opposition, I have always attributed to the teaching of the Spirit of God.

In the year 1873 I wrote a work entitled "The Bible and the Doctrine of Evolution," (E. K. Lewis, Gower Street, London) containing many of these thoughts. The preface stated that :---

I refer to the whole system of Evolution, not to Harmonies touching Genesis and Geology.

"This work accepts, almost without qualification, the Doctrine of Evolution, as interproted by Mr. Herbort Spencer and Mr. Charles Darwin; and connects it with the Bible, as but the physical or natural side of its own Doctrines, which it illustrates, extends, confirms."

The work, though very crude and immature, was freely noticed by the press. Among others, three London daily papers, *The Pall Mall Gazette, The Morning Post*, and the *Standard*, gave it considerable attention. The same year it became the subject of a paper read before "The Maidstone and Mid Kent Natural History and Philosophical Society," by Stephen Monekton, M.D., F.R.C.P., Lon: Vice-President of the Society, from which I take the following :--

"He affirms that such masterly minds as those of Spencer, Darwin, and Bain, have been elaborating by their own researches, systems, which, unconsolously on their part, were in perfect accord with the cosmogony or physical philosophy of the Eible; but that they had stopped short in the work which the Bible had completed; because they failed to recognise that the progress of man under a spiritual regime since Adam, was determined by the very rules and precedents which had operated throughout all previous time, and that the future destiny of both men and nature, as forsteld by Scripture, followed harmoniously down the very stream which they had traced so clearly through the earliest part of its course. Such an undertaking differed utterly from the old and frequent attempts to reconcile Genesis and geology."

The book contained fifteen chapters treating of the Scriptural revelation of God, of Life and its Evolution, of Development and Degeneration as the consequences respectively of Obedience and Disobedience to Natural Law, of Man and his Environment, of Mr. Herbert Spencer's