

the structure, with the double curvature of the back, being adapted to this characteristic; that his fore limbs are taken from the locomotive series and passed over to the cephalic, to subserve especially the purposes of the brain; that muscular power is not in him the foundation of grade and efficiency, but that he has a brain more than twice the size of the highest of the Quadrumana, and herein is prosthetic to a prominent degree, as the labors of his hands and head declare, the divergence from the Quadrumana is manifestly great. Man's 'low-grade' or 'primitive' characteristics have special fitness for the exalted being; and this is sufficient reason for their existence.

"Man, moreover, is the last species of the series. Agassiz observed that the Vertebrate type, which began during the Paleozoic in the prone or horizontal Fish, became erect in Man, and thus completed the possible changes in the series, to its last term. An erect body, with an erect forehead and a symmetry that is of ideal perfection, admits of no step beyond.

"Man was the first being, in the geological succession, capable of an intelligent survey of nature and a comprehension of her laws; the first capable of augmenting his strength by bending nature to his service, rendering thereby a weak body stronger than all possible animal force; the first capable of deriving happiness from truth and goodness; of apprehending eternal right; of reaching toward a knowledge of self and God; the first therefore, capable of conscious obedience or disobedience of a moral law, and the first to debasement of his

OK, if you can agree that 60,000 yrs. ago, rather than around 10,000 or 50,000 yrs. ago.

moral nature through his appetites.

"There is in Man, therefore, a spiritual element in which the brute has no share. His power of indefinite progress, his thoughts and desires that look onward even beyond time, his recognition of spiritual existence and of a Divinity above, all evince a nature that partakes of the infinite and divine. Man is linked to the past through the system of life, of which he is the last, the completing, creation. But, unlike other species of that closing system of the past, he through his spiritual nature, is more intimately connected with the opening future." *

Spiritual nature means when God gave him his Spirit in the Garden

* *Dec 1017, 1018.*

Were it true that man is a product of evolution from lower forms, it is but reasonable to believe that he will yet develop into something higher. While it is true that eternal progression is a characteristic of man's divine birthright, as yet we have ~~known~~^{known} nothing to indicate that man shall develop physically into any other form than that in which he now appears.

Many attempts have been made by those who regard man as an animal to ~~form~~^{give} some definition by which he may be distinctively described among his fellow animals; but among such attempts none have been satisfactorily successful. The difficulty lies in the fact already stated, that man differs from the animal creation not only in degree but in kind; he is the only being who has any conception of a pre-existent state or an existence beyond the grave; the only being whose thoughts turn toward God and who feels in his soul the inspiring impulses of kinship to Deity. Believe not those who would make man but little above the brutes, when in truth he is but little below the angels, and if faithful, shall pass by the angels and take his place among the exalted sons of God. The spirit of man is the offspring of the Eternal Father, and his body, if unmarred, is in the very form and fashion of that spirit.

We have been told that Jesus Christ is in very truth our Elder Brother, and as to His pre-existence in the spirit ~~state~~ state there is little room for question. That His spirit was in the form of the earthly body which

He afterward took, and which body was slain, buried, and resurrected, and with which body He ascended into heaven, is attested by scripture. Consider the remarkable experience of the brother of Jared. This man and his people had been commanded to prepare vessels in which to cross the great waters. The people knew not how to provide light for the vessels. The ancient prophet, known to us as the brother of Jared, produced by fusion or melting of rock material, certain small stones "white and clear, even as transparent glass." These he carried to the mountain top and there called upon the Lord to touch them with His finger, that they might be made luminous. Thus runs the record of his prayer and its result:

"And I know, O Lord, that thou hast all power, and can do whatsoever thou wilt for the benefit of man; therefore touch these stones, O Lord, with thy finger, and prepare them that they may shine forth in darkness; and they shall shine forth unto us in the vessels which we have prepared, that we may have light while we shall cross the sea.

"Behold, O Lord, thou canst do this. We know that thou art able to show forth great power, which looks small unto the understanding of man.

"And it came to pass that when the brother of Jared had said these words, behold, the Lord stretched forth his hand and touched the stones, one by one with his finger; and the veil was taken down out of the eyes of the brother

of Jared, and he saw the finger of the Lord; and it was as the finger of a man, like unto flesh and blood; and the brother of Jared fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear.

"And the Lord saw that the Brother of Jared had fallen to the earth; and the Lord said unto him, Arise, why hast thou fallen?

"And he saith unto the Lord, I saw the finger of the Lord, and I feared lest he should smite me; for I knew not that the Lord had flesh and blood.

"And the Lord said unto him, Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; for were it not so, ye could not have seen my finger. Sawest thou more than this?

"And he answered, Nay, Lord, show thyself unto me.

"And the Lord said unto him, Believest thou the words which I shall speak?

"And he answered, Yea, Lord, I know that thou speakest the truth, for thou art a God of truth and canst not lie.

"And when he had said these words, behold, the Lord showed himself unto him, and said, Because thou knowest these things, ye are redeemed from the fall; therefore ye are brought back into my presence; therefore I show myself unto you.

"Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have

light, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters.

"And never have I showed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast. Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yes, even all men were created in the beginning, after mine own image.

"Behold, this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit, will I appear unto my people in the flesh."

It is evident from this scripture that in His pre-existent state, that is to say in the state in which He existed prior to His earthly birth, Jesus Christ had the same form and stature as He afterward presented in the flesh. By natural processes His spirit shaped for itself a body from the material of earth, which body underwent a course of graded development until it reached maturity, and in the mature state ^{that time} was the counterpart of the spirit whose material tabernacle it was. As with Jesus, our Elder Brother, so with all the sons and daughters of God; each had a spiritual existence before ^{he} entered upon this stage of mortal experience, and in each case the body is formed and fashioned by the power of the immortal spirit. In this process of body-shaping, the spirit may be hindered, hampered, and interfered with, through influences of heredity, through pre-natal defects,

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and through accident and disease.

As to how were formed the bodies of the first human beings to take tabernacles, the revealed word gives no details, though the essentials of the process are set forth; while science has practically nothing to offer by way of explanation. As Dana so positively declares in the work already cited, "man's origin has thus far no sufficient explanation from science;" but as the author proceeds to show, not only man, but the whole universe exists in accordance with the power and will of one supreme intelligence, and with this conception in mind, "Nature, with Man as its culminant species is no longer a mystery."

Man belongs but temporarily to this earth; and he came hither from another world, in which he lived in an unembodied state and to which, in the natural order, he shall return in a disembodied state, following the change known as death. After the body of the first man had been made ready through the direct operation of the creative power, the spirit of man entered that body. Note the sublimity of the scriptural declaration: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."*

*Gen. 2:7.

Again reverting to Dana's utterance, we may feel sure "that the intervention of a Power above Nature was at the basis of man's development."

In the study of all the created things over which he has received dominion, man has found it possible to investigate with some degree of success the secondary causes, or natural processes through which the creative power has operated to bring about the system which we designate as Nature; but in the study of his own ~~material~~ ^{eternal} self he is brought at once to the contemplation of the First Great Cause as to his origin. The power that lies at the basis of man's development is as Dana declared "a Power above Nature." That is to say, man, as a mortal exists as the result of a special and particular creation. Through graded stages the earth was brought into a state suited to the support of life. In orderly sequence plants and animals appeared; and when at last the world was prepared for its royal ruler, he came, even as had been decreed: "And God said, let us make man in our own image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:

and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."*

*Gen. 1:26-28.

Such is the declaration of scripture, such is the teaching of the Gospel regarding man's advent ^{upon} ~~on~~ earth; and such indeed is a fair summary of our knowledge upon the subject. Evolution is true so far as it means development, and progress, and advancement in all the works of God; but many of the vagaries that have been made to do duty under that name are so vague as to be utterly unacceptable to the scientific mind. At best, the conception of the development of man's body from lower forms through evolutionary processes is but a theory, an unproved hypothesis. Theories may be regarded as the scaffolding upon which the builder stands while placing the blocks of truth in position. It is a grave error to mistake the scaffold ^{any} for the wall, the flimsy and temporary structure for the stable and permanent. The scaffolding serves but a passing purpose, important though that be, and is removed as soon as the walls of that part of the edifice of knowledge have been constructed. Theories have their purpose and are indispensable in fact, but they must never be ~~confused with~~ ^{made use of for} demonstrated facts. The Holy Scriptures should not be discredited by theories of man; ~~they~~ ^{they} cannot be discredited by fact and truth. ^{It is a fact}

a lot less vague now, in 200

not now! it is a fact

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Gospel of Jesus Christ there is room and place for every truth thus far learned by man, or yet to be made known.

The Gospel is not behind the times, on the contrary it is up-to-date and ever shall be.

Consciousness: from Spirits in pre-existence or developed thru time by natural selection?

*25.10.06/19
the final barrier to drop from scripture - I think I never will be dropped here. Mormon must depart from script.*

It is natural for the young and immature mind to think that what to it is new, must of necessity be new to the world. Comparatively inexperienced students are discovering from time to time apparent discrepancies between the faith of their fathers and the development

of modern thought; and these they are apt to magnify and exaggerate, when as a matter of fact, their great grandfathers met the same seeming difficulties and yet

survived. Believe not those who assert that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is in any way opposed to progress or inconsistent with advancement.

it must be opposed at the point man (w/spirit) comes to play on the earth - the divide

Man is the child of God, he is born heir to boundless possibilities, the child of the eternities past destined to endure and progress through the eterniti-

will indeed always be great here. These you really see, no synthesis. Deus ex machina must come into play!

to come. Among spiritual existences as among mortal beings, the law holds true that the posterity of each shall be after his kind. The child therefore, may

become like unto the parent; and ^{man} may yet attain the rank of godship. He is born in the lineage of the gods not in the posterity of the brute creation.

*not true today
ready -
our grandfathers
weren't alive to
consider genetics,
genetics, population
Dobzhansky, Muller,
Gould, Dawkins,
Fisher, Bohr
Watson, Crick,
et al.*

