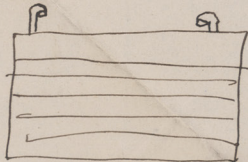


Monk. 8th 24th 76

Ji - Ji,

Please don't talk to ~~the~~^{my} wife about
the enclosed; she'll be in the horrors about
damp & smells. Bad enough when she
comes back. I feel as if most of the life
was done out of me; & of course my ^{1st}
duty is to get patched up enough to do the
next year's schooling. Perhaps, under
pretext of a Jan. All. Council Mtg. at Orchard
Beach, I shall run down there for a change,
as soon as Marie has been & gone

For immediate necessities, I have
fancied that 2 little tin pipes, à la Siphon,
bent over to keep out dust, might be put
in the side cases - thus -



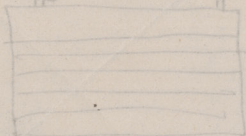
I find that keeping local faunas
+ attention to large & small for others }
+ etc cannot work; I am almost driven to conclude

that a pure zoological arrangement, by genera,
recent & fossil will be better for students & the public.
Yours enough yet.

Its very hard - writing a letter, or mounting
a shell. Still harder talking, or doing nothing.
Hardest of all to be pushed over! So I'm glad
to be rather a hard case! Long may you
be kept from the same condition.

V. P.
R.

W. Dawson



E VOLUTION—WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

“Nor can I comprehend the rapidity with which persons of authority have come to treat the Darwinian Hypothesis as having reached the final stage of demonstration. To the eye of a looker-on their pace and method seem rather too much like a steeplechase.”—(Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, “Nineteenth Century” for January, 1886).

One school in attempting to bridge o’er the chasm
 Invented the germinal cell “Protoplasm,”
 Which was first *inorganic*, but afterwards seen
 To grow into “Sponges” and “Polyps” marine;
 From thence by “Absorption,” “Accretion” and growth
 Giving birth to the “Bivalves” and “Molluscs,” or both.
 These creatures, by striving, grew fins, tails and claws,
 In spite of Dame Nature’s implacable laws.
 They sprouted and turned into reptiles amphibious;
 Of obstacles placed in the way, quite oblivious.
 Urged on by “Necessity” upwards they grew,
 Day by day giving birth to some quadruped new,
 Evolving—re-forming without intermission,
 “As played upon by the surrounding condition.”
 THEN “Like produced *un-like*” without hesitation,
 Earthy atom transformed into rich vegetation.
 Animalculæ left their aquatic abode,
 And into the forests by thousands they strode.
 Frogs changed into birds at the voice of the Sirens,
 And everything living “changed with their environs.”
 The Lichens from every restriction then broke,
 And evolved both the **Lepidodendron* and Oak.
 ’Twas a wonderful time and a wonderful sight
 To see how each day brought new objects to light.
 The stratified rock the strange story relates
 How the **Plesiosaurus*” begat Vertebrates
 And the **Ichthyosaurus*” one night in a freak
 Gave birth to the **Mastodon*”—(minus the beak),
 While the tiny *Acidion* evolved from the Oyster.
 Emerging somewhat like a monk from his cloister,
 The Bear from the Mole in the past we descry,
 While the Bumble Bee came “by descent” from the Fly.
 Then the Lemur begat the grim Ape Catarrhine,
 From thence came the others “in process of time.”
 Their tails being “chaffed” became shortened, ’till soon
 We arrive at the hairy-faced, tail-less Baboon.
 These quarrelled and fought in the Forests primeval,
 Impelled by an inherent spirit of evil.
 The Pentadactilians ignoring all trammels,
 Produced the most curious Terrestrial Mammals;
 While the Porpoise and Sea-Horse plunged into the deep,
 Determined henceforward to water to keep.
 “By the use and disuse” of their parts, as it suited,
 They wandered (to no spot particular rooted).
 One half the world took with the other to strive,
 ’Till naught but the “Fittest” were found to “survive.”
 At last Man appeared—but, amazingly strange!
 From that moment the animals never could change.
 “Like” at last “produced like” and the laws became
 fixed,
 Which explains why the Species since, never got mixed.

For "Plesiosaurus" read "Mastodon".

J. W. H.

* These are fossil animals and plants.

[The great ability, calm reflection and common sense displayed in these lines, induce us to hope that we will again hear from their talented author.—E.W.I.]