

Rev. P. Hittner

Madison, New Jersey

February 5, 1898.

To Sir J. W. Dawson

My dear Sir

I read your admirable article on "The Case against Evolution" in a recent no. of the "Independent," & my reading of it emboldens me to send you a copy of the N. Y. Evangelist, containing a brief article of mine, signed "An Inquirer," & marked. I trust you will excuse the liberty I take.

I am an old Presbyterian Minister, over 80 years of age; "Emeritus," after occupying a pulpit in this place until my 78<sup>th</sup> year. While I have never introduced the pro or con of Evolution in my pulpit, yet, its claims have been much in my thoughts as having direct bearing on the Bible and

practical theology.

The article in the Evangelist was written because I really wanted an answer to the inquiry. Before writing it, I sent a letter to Dr Lyman Abbott, with whom my relations are very pleasant, embodying my difficulty. He is alluded to in the article in the Evangelist, as "a cultured friend who disclaims being a scientific Evolutionist." I then wrote Wrote out <sup>my</sup> thoughts and sent what I had written, to Dr Ward of the Independent, a personal friend, to whose columns I have been a Contributor. Dr Ward sends me back my article, with a courteous note saying that he doesn't think he can give it a place, inasmuch as "Darwin himself makes abundant provision for per saltum Evolution." Dr Ward's answer to me is alluded to in the Evangelist as <sup>that of</sup> "an-

other friend who is a scientific evolution-  
ist." So I concluded that the thing  
might as well be in print somewhere,  
& I sent it to Dr Field of the Evangelist  
for whose paper I frequently write, and  
who is an old friend.

You have traveled over the same  
ground, altho I do not know as my  
main thought has arrested your attention;  
and as I do not even know that you  
will esteem the Evolution for an "eff" or  
having the conclusion bearing which is seem  
to me to have.

An objection to the Evolution of  
Animal Life, which appears to me to be  
fundamental & radical, is the propagation  
of the species & during the long period involved,  
from the asexual to the sexual condition. I  
have alluded to this very briefly in my  
article. Of course it is not original with

me, altho I have but seldom met with  
the argument.

Now my dear Sir I trust this  
note will not give you any trouble, &  
that I shall have the pleasure of reading  
other articles from your pen in the Independent.

Believe me most cordially and  
respectfully yours.

(Per) Robert Aikman.

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