

23. That neither two hundred nor five hundred millions of years are enough to account for the formation of plants and animals from primordial cells on the theory of the Darwinian transmutation.

These, gentlemen, are the outlines of what many men of science regard as the most serious of all objections to the hypothesis of evolution. This is the only difficulty to which Professor Huxley in his New-York lectures condescended to reply, it is the most prominent of the objections which Hackel endeavors to refute in his recent daring work on "The History of Creation." I now hold in my hand this book, of which Darwin himself says, that its author has much more information than he has on many points, and that, if it had appeared before "The Descent of Man," the latter work would probably never have been written. Professor Hackel teaches at present in the University of Jena, in Germany; and he is one of the most extreme of evolutionists. He denies the freedom of the will, and is a thorough-going defender of the theory of the possibility of spontaneous generation (HACKEL, *History of Creation*, chap. xiii.). He affirms, as Huxley does, that we have no direct evidence that spontaneous generation has ever occurred, and that it is against all the analogy of current nature to suppose that it has occurred. But he knows the exigencies of the radical form of the theory of evolution; and so he assumes, with Strauss, that possibly in a cooling planet a living cell may have been originated by the fortuitous concourse of atoms. A cell once originated, we can account for all life. But