

# Thought & Effort - or Aeonic Indolence?

Last time we noted how it has been well over a century since ground-breaking work by Louis Pasteur and others. Applying scientific method, they clearly established that the doctrine of Spontaneous Generation is false. This investigation began only months after Charles Darwin released his work, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. Was it because this book was received with such overwhelming enthusiasm, that none could see how the work of Pasteur applied to Darwin's theory? Although Darwin would not commit himself on the origin of life, others in his day believed that life arose on the early Earth by a series of progressive chemical reactions. British biologist T.H. Huxley in his *Protoplasm, the Physical Basis of Life* (1869), asserted that life could be generated from inorganic chemicals. British physicist John Tyndall stated the same view in his "*Belfast Address*" of 1874 - remarkable, coming from the same man who confirmed Pasteur's rejection of spontaneous generation! Both men had extremely vague ideas about how living things could be generated from naturally occurring matter - the "dust" of the earth, ***Ecclesiastes 3:19-20*** - without the intervention of a Designer.

But the background to Darwin's efforts can be seen in the pioneering work of William Smith, recognized as "the founder of stratigraphy" - the branch of geology that deals with the order and relative position of the strata of the earth's crust. In 1815 Smith published his *Geologic Map of England and Wales with Part of Scotland*. His companion work was *Strata Identified by Organized Fossils*, in which the organic remains characteristic of each of his rock units were shown. Each layer of sedimentary rock is "possessed of properties peculiar to itself [and] has the same organized fossils throughout its course." It was called the principle of faunal sequence. Smith's findings showed that the strata have preserved a succession of ancient forms of life.

Smith's was an age when there was still a widespread belief in the Genesis account of creation. And in the time before Darwin's publication, a sizeable proportion of geologists saw no conflict between what became known as The Law of Faunal Succession and their belief in Divine creation. They saw all the life-forms, from every strata, as being the result of special creation. It was only after *Origin of Species* came out that faunal succession became accepted as evolution of species, progressing from simple to complex. Darwin's is based on what he expected to occur by blind chance - given an immense extent of TIME. A reply to this might begin with what was said in the most memorable speech this writer has heard - given at our son's graduation ceremony: "Don't waste your time. Make use of every waking minute. He who kills time is a murderer!"

Simple but profound observations of reality say, "*I went by the field of the slothful ... and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down*" - ***Proverbs 24:30***. "*The soul of a sluggard desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich*" - ***13:4***. "*The sluggard will not plow because of winter; therefore he will beg during the harvest and have nothing*" - ***20:4***.

Darwin's philosophy was that by the giving of no thought, by the expending of no effort - but by simply waiting for millions of years - this globe has been filled with all its living things, not to speak of the many and rich and abundant resources for man's use. If this were true, then it ought to occur now, even if only rarely, that a piece of ground produces a bumper crop of wheat without the diligent labours of one qualified in the science and practice of agriculture. But it hasn't happened.