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LONDON, MAY 7, 1886.

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The Legends of Creation literalized in Genesis: Their Egyptian Original and Persian line of Descent.

A REPLY TO THE RT. HON. W. E. GLADSTONE AND PROFESSOR HUXLEY.

GERALD MASSEY'S LECTURE, ST. GEORGE'S HALL, LONDON, SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1886.

Notwithstanding the exceedingly fine weather, and during the most attractive part of the day, Mr. Massey had his usual following of thoughtful listeners. The subject was one of the most recondite that he has yet presented. The mode of treatment produced such an inversion of thought, that to some it would be wholly unthinkable. But how few people can think! To place them in front of an intellectual speaker is like setting men, who have lost their legs, to run a race. The subject was incidentally made to meet Mr. Gladstone's views on Genesis, i. A tribute was paid to the veteran statesman, who had a mind superior to his creed. With a more liberal theological education and surroundings, Gladstone might have been a leader in reform, of a higher order than the shifty plane of political expediencies; but it was a pity to see such a man a leader in misleading. The Genesis account was shown to be a narrative of the "Generations of the heavens," not of the creation of the earth. The structure of our globe was held to be a modern study. Long before such things were thought of, men observed the phenomena above and around them, and the objects in the sky. The so-called "days of creation" were indeed stages of observation applied to celestial phenomena. The division of time was an early and essential form of knowledge. This was denoted by the appearance of stars, the phases of the moon, and the solar period discovered by the observation of the sun. This was the latest form of computation, hence light was said to have existed before the supposed creation of the sun; but this was not the meaning, but that the mode of computing time by the sun was latest in discovery. This exploded Mr. Gladstone's theory of light and herbage existing before the creation of the sun, as it was not a creation at all that was set forth.

All the days of "creation" were thus explained, and their true meaning shown. The Elohim were not spirits at all, but natural powers and appearances with their head, Jehovah, equivalent to IO, or the Arabic numerals 10. Much of the mysticism of the "Revelation of St. John" was shown to be the same as portions of Genesis. The origin of 7, which

so frequently occurs in Biblical matters, was given. Mr. Gladstone does not appear to have read himself up in Egyptian lore, or he would not have said there were no Egyptian marks in Genesis. It was shown that there were many. The history of Adam and Eve may be found sculptured on the monuments of Egypt. Some people, like Swedenborg, put certain meanings into the Myths, and then took them out again. This was no explanation at all. As an essential basis for understanding the subject, Mythology as a form of ancient knowledge, with its own mode of interpretation, was described in the

INTRODUCTION.

The text for my present discourse might be formulated thus:—Much of the error extant to-day is in consequence of the ancient mode of representation having become a mould of modern thought. We have seen how the Devil of physical darkness was developed doctrinally into a supposed Spirit of mental and moral darkness, through the literalization of a Myth; how the elemental powers were transformed into Spirits of the Elements, and the Seven Souls of Man confused and confounded with the Seven Elementaries; how the Animal Typology of the earlier time is responsible for the alleged transmigration of the human soul into the bodies of animals, and the re-incarnation of *soul* has been extended into the re-incarnation of *individual souls*.

Various other doctrines of delusion have been foisted on us as revelations, which are only a result of the primitive simplicities of thought having been ignorantly dogmatized, or profoundly subtilized. Hitherto, instead of deriving our Truth direct from *facts*, we have been made the fools of Fable! Our Truth at best, has been the mere individual *dicta* of this or the other teacher. Henceforth our teachers in every department of knowledge must be the facts themselves. Moreover, all teaching concerning the past, not based on the evolutionary method, is of non-effect, out of date, and superseded for ever.

It is not the ancient Legends that tell us lies. The men who created them did not deal falsely by us. All the falsity