

*WHEN DID ADAM LIVE?*

The length of time since the human race made its appearance upon the earth is a subject of much inquiry among scientific men. None pretend that a precise answer can be given, and hence the whole range of our knowledge, as far as it relates to the problem, is resorted to for an approximate solution. In itself, the matter may not seem of much importance; yet connected with it are questions in religion and philosophy on which there is much discussion at the present day.

Some investigators estimate the period of time in question at several hundred thousand years. This view is held, though not exclusively, by the advocates of Darwinism; for others, holding the same opinion, claim that it conflicts with the evolution hypothesis. Another class of inquirers, basing their arguments on the statements of Sacred Writ, claim that a much shorter period will meet all the requirements of the case.

When an old opinion is attacked, we ought not to abandon it until plainly shown that the new belief is the more probable. So in this instance, as the shorter period has been the more generally received, it is legitimate for us to seek to prove that it is not also the more tenable. In view of the attacks made on Biblical chronology, and the misunderstandings with which it is apprehended, we purpose to notice a few facts which appear to support it.

We must first remember that the dates which the Bible furnishes do not afford, any more than others, sufficient data for computing the time that has elapsed since the creation of man. Hence, all the computations that have been made are but approximate, none having authoritative value. The chronology of Usher, found on the margins of the English Bible, places 4004 years between the creation of Adam and the birth of Christ. But this has long been discarded by the learned, being controverted by facts. And yet some contin-

ue to assail it as if it were claimed as an inspired part of the Bible. The chronology of Hales, which makes the same epoch 5411 years in length, is more accurate, though considered too short; yet the speculation which would extend this to a vastly greater length is not, we think, warranted by facts.

Ethnology presents quite evident proof of a great centre of population in Western Asia, from which, at various times, in part historical, people spread out in all directions. Europe seems first to have been peopled by Turanians. Of these, the Basques of the Pyrenees, and the Finns and Lapps of northern Europe are the only present representatives. Later came the Celts and Græco-Latin nations, and later still, the Germans, Slaves, and Huns. In Asia the Hindoos and Chinese, though very long settled in their respective countries, have preserved some indication of an eastward migration. America seems to have received an influx from the east at a very early day, and later accessions from the opposite direction. Some of the Pacific nations seem to have been peopled quite recently, and nearly all nations bear evidence of having migrated from other places.

The race has a dispersive tendency, which in early times, was perhaps stronger than at present. Diversity of race, the prevalence of war, and nomadic habits, operated powerfully to facilitate the peopling of the earth. If all mankind were once in the hunter state, and evolutionists uphold this view, the circumstance would alone be a powerful cause, for a savage dependent on the chase requires a large territory for his support. Now when we consider the steady increase in population during the present century, of Europe and America, it is evident that a few thousand years are amply sufficient to allow for the peopling of the world, even admitting the fact that some countries once contained a greater population than at present. If the race is half a million years old, nothing short of almost constant war and