

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN  
VILLA SERENA  
MIAMI, FLORIDA

January  
Sixteen  
1922

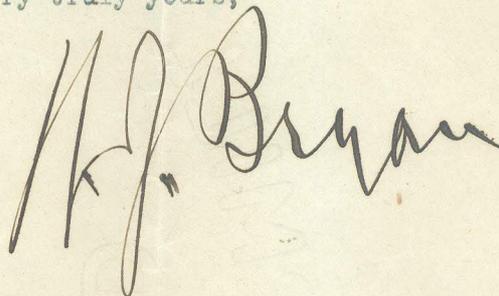
Prof. S. J. Bolek  
Wheaton College,  
Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Bole:

Your favor at hand. I shall certainly be glad to write you a letter before publication or after publication. We are greatly in need of a biology written from the standpoint of the Bible. So far I have not been able to find any text book on biology which does not begin with monkeys. As you are instructor in biology could you not prepare a book on this subject? I believe that the book ~~man~~ would be glad to have some such book to offer to Christian schools and to school boards that oppose Darwin's hypothesis.

Have you made a specialty of Chemistry? I regard Chemistry as the best science with which to combat evolution because it is an exact science and precludes chance. Do you know of any chemist who would like to undertake the preparation of a defense of the Bible account of creation from the standpoint of a chemist and support it with illustrations from Chemistry? I expect to prepare a speech on Chemistry versus Evolution. Why would not "Biology versus Evolution" be a good title for your book? Shall be glad to render you any service I can. I enclose a copy of my recent speech.

Very truly yours,



WJB:T

*publishers*

# The Commoner

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

En Route,  
July 27, 1922.

*Prof.  
Faith & Reason  
in chap. on Phil.  
P. 5 notes*

See Professor Bowles,  
Wheaton College,  
Wheaton, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Bowles:

I have read your manuscript and am greatly interested in the book. Because I hope you will publish it I venture to make some suggestions which occurred to me as I read it. As I have only had time to read it over once, you will pardon me if I am mistaken in any part or interpretation.

*See.*

My first suggestion is that your answers to Darwin are not sufficiently elaborated. You quote many things said by evolutionists, that is entirely proper, but it is important that you either quote answers sufficient to answer or yourself point out the errors into which the opposition has fallen. I would introduce each chapter with a paragraph, calling attention in a few words to the basic fallacy, then quote the opposition, then quote our side, then conclude by applying in a larger way the thought with which you begin. For instance, in your chapter on geographical distribution, a very interesting chapter, I would say that geographical distribution furnishes a very interesting idea and a very legitimate field for investigation; provided the investigation is made in the right spirit, and that depends largely upon the point of view with which one starts. If one begins by accepting Darwin's hypothesis--or guess as it might better be called--he will accept ~~the~~ evidence which he would reject as absurd if he began with the Mosaic account of man's creation. If a man believes that all present forms of life came by gradual change from one or a few invisible germs, he will accept the best evidence he can find, no matter how poor that evidence may be. If, on the other hand, he begins with God and believes that man was made by separate act of creation, he will only accept evidence that seems reasonable. Believing that a God who can create can create anything that He likes and put it where He pleases, he is able to explain geographical distribution by assuming ~~that~~ a creative act when there is no reasonable evidence of distribution by physical causes. When one believes in a first Great Cause sufficient for all things, he is relieved of the necessity of having to imagine or bridge over an impassable gulf. The above is by way of suggestion. The chapter could be concluded by pointing out the weak points in the explanations quoted.

In your introduction you give a very helpful story of your own experience, but I think it would be still more help-

Prof. Bowles----#2.

ful if you would point out how, upon your conversion, you reviewed your former position and step by step point out the fallacies which you recognized and corrected, laying emphasis upon the compulsion under which one acts when he accepts evolution as if it were a fact and then attempts to bring his views on all subjects into harmony with this supposed fact. This will aid the student who is going through the same experience to make use of your conversion.

2

There is one correction that I feel sure you ought to make: You lay great emphasis upon Darwin's attitude at the close of his life, as related by Lady Hope, but ignore his own statement of his agnostic views entertained only a short time before. I believe that we have much more to gain by using him against himself to show how his doctrine led him away from every Christian principle, than by emphasizing his return at the last moment. If we omit the proven effect of the doctrine upon himself and quote only Lady Hope's report of his last hours Darwinites will be quick to use his last attitude as proof that Darwinism does not mislead Christians. Lady Hope's testimony does not indicate a recantation and it does not show any such attitude as would answer the indictment made against him. If you use Lady Hope's testimony at all it ought to be after you have pointed out his wanderings and then show that his experience in the wilderness into which his doctrine led him, was so unsatisfactory that he had to come back in his dying moments to the consolation of the Christian's faith--adding that while he might be repentant and forgiven, he could not undo the wrong he had done or make amends for the injustice of which he had been guilty.

See In His Image

Chap. 4, OK

On the first page of Chapter four you say that Darwin brought together so many facts that his hypothesis became a theory. I think that is conceding too much. Huxley says that as he never could prove a single species changed it had not yet risen to the rank of a theory but remained a hypothesis. I quote that in my book, "In His Image" in the fourth lecture on The Origin of Man. I think it would be well to use the term hypothesis instead of theory.

In two cases I notice that you state a theological doctrine without elaborating or defending it. For instance, on page 9, chapter 2, you say, "A man who denies the virgin birth and the resurrection is lost, whether he be an elder or a deacon in the church." Such a statement inserted without elaboration or a context that supports it is not likely to be of much benefit and may divert attention from what you are trying to prove. Instead of attempting to decide the ~~truth~~ of such a man, I think it would be better to point out the reasonableness of the virgin birth and the resurrection. The reason why men reject them is because they begin by accepting evolution as true and miracles are inconsistent with evolution.

fatal

spiritual truths / intellectual truths / chap. talk.

Prof. Bowles----#3.

If they will begin with a God, all wise, all powerful, and all loving, they establish the possibility of the virgin birth and the resurrection. It was as easy for an infinite God to provide for the virgin birth of Christ as it was to provide for man's birth in the ordinary way. And so, it was just as easy to restore life to Christ as it was to give life in the first place. The possibility being established, the proof is sufficient. Evolution precludes the possibility and then rejects both the virgin birth and the resurrection because they are impossible.

When I have more time I will go over the matter with you more fully. I am writing these observations in order to express my appreciation of what you have done and to indicate my desire to assist you as far as I can.

Very truly yours,

WJB:T

H. J. Brown  
Lincoln  
neb

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN  
"MARYMONT"  
COCONUT GROVE, FLORIDA

July 2, 1925.

Prof. S. James Boles,  
Wheaton College, Ill.

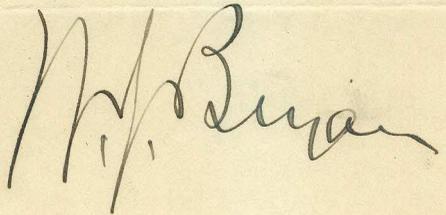
My dear Prof. Boles:

Recalling our correspondence some time ago, I write to know whether you would be able to come to Dayton, Tennessee, in case we need you. We cannot tell in advance what evidence may be necessary and, as we have no fund, we cannot afford to assemble a lot of witnesses unless we need them. I enclose a statement of the case against evolution. Please write me at Dayton, Tennessee, whether you can come if necessary and also give me your reaction on the propositions set forth in the enclosed sheet.

We are not giving out the names of any witnesses until we know we need them. This letter is, therefore, confidential.

Very truly yours,

WJB:T

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. J. Bryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "W".