

THE NEW PHILOSOPHY.

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that scientist as the most trustworthy who has a knowledge of degrees. If so, Swedenborg can alone be trusted, for he alone built his science upon degrees. And any one, whether a New Churchman or not, who desires to know Swedenborg thoroughly, should by all means begin his studies where Swedenborg himself began.

JOHN SWANTON.

The Angelic Idea Concerning Creation.

“The angelic idea concerning the universe created from the Lord is as follows: That God is the centre, and that He is a Man; and unless God was a Man, creation would not have been possible, and that the Lord from eternity is that God.

Concerning Creation: That the Lord from eternity or God, through His Divine Proceeding, created the universe and all things there; and because the Divine Proceeding is also life itself, that all things were created from life and by life. Also, that the first Divine Proceeding is what appears before the angels as a sun. This sun before their eyes appears fiery and flaming, which appearance exists because the Divine Proceeding is the Divine Love and the Divine Wisdom, the appearance of which is such afar off. They added, that the Divine Proceeding is what the ancients effigied by golden or lucid pure circles around the head of God, and which modern painters still retain from the ancient idea. They said that from that sun, as a great centre, proceed circles, one after another and one from another even to the last, where their end is subsisting in rest. Also, that those circles, of which one is from another and one after another, appearing extended into what is broad and into what is long, are spiritual atmospheres, which the light and heat from their sun fill, and by which they propagate themselves to the last circle. Also, that in the last, by means of those atmospheres, and afterward by means of the natural atmospheres which are from the sun of the world, the creation of the earth was effected, and upon it all things which are for use, which creation is afterwards continued by generations from seeds in wombs or in

eggs. Those angels who knew that the universe so created was a continuous work from the Creator even to ultimates, and that as being a continuous work, it, as one connected whole, depended on, was actuated and governed by the Lord, who is its common centre, said that the First Proceeding was continued even to the lasts by discrete degrees, altogether as an end through causes into effects; or as something producing and its products in a continued series. Also, that the continuation was not only in, but also around, from the First, and thence from every prior into every posterior, even to the postreme; and that thus the First, and from it the posterior things, co-exist in their order in the postreme or last. From this continuity, as a one, they have an idea of the Lord that He is all in all, that He is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, that He is infinite and eternal; and also an idea what the order is, according to which the Lord, by His Divine Love and His Divine Wisdom, arranges, provides and governs all things.

It was asked, Whence then is hell? They said, from the freedom of man, without which man would not be man; that man from that freedom broke the continuity in himself, which, being broken, separation was effected, and the continuity, which was in him from creation, became as a chain or linked work, which falls to pieces through the breaking and plucking asunder of the links above, and afterward hangs from small threads. Separation or breaking was effected, and is effected, by the denial of God.”—*Swedenborg*.

Swedenborg's work entitled “Principia Rerum Naturalium Sivi Novorum Tentaminum Phaenomena Mundi Elementaris Philosophice Explicandi,” or “The Principia or The First Principles of Natural Things, being New Attempts toward a Philosophical Explanation of the Elementary World,” was first published by Swedenborg in the Latin language in the year 1734, and a translation into English was published in London in 1846. Both these editions are out of print and are very difficult to obtain.

A committee of The General Convention of the New Church has been appointed to procure subscriptions for a new edition of this work. The committee consists of Rev. Frank Sewall chairman, Rev. John Whitehead, Rev. H. C. Hay, John R. Swanton and Riborg Mann. The work has progressed far enough to make certain the success of the effort to procure a new edition. The preparation of the work for publication was referred to the Class on Science and Philosophy of the Council of Ministers. We hope in the near future to be able to give more full particulars in regard to the terms of subscription, date of issue, and other particulars.