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"The Critics of Spencer /editorial/,"  
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THE CRITICS OF SPENCER.

"Outsider's" second contribution to the discussion upon HERBERT SPENCER'S philosophy will interest the Spencerians scarcely less than his first article. It states his position more definitely, and in replying to his numerous critics he has an opportunity to enlarge the holes which he is supposed to have pricked in SPENCER'S "pretensions." There is no more fascinating subject in the whole range of evolutionary thought and theory than the relation of Force to Life--whether an originating and creative role is to be assigned to Force, or if it is to be regarded only as the obedient instrument of a Power not to be comprehended. "Outsider," who is himself an evolutionist, records his dissent from SPENCER'S "mechanical" theory of evolution, in which Force appears as the generator of Life.

The philosophically-minded will hardly find a more delightful pastime in these calm Spring days than the attempt to fashion for themselves, or to follow where others have fashioned, the boundless fallacies in which the contenders on both sides necessarily become involved when they try seriously to examine the fantastic hypothesis that "Outsider" restates to-day when he invites us to "suppose all the molecules of the universe to have the positions which they actually have at any moment, but to have all precisely the reverse velocities." It was the King's hatter, we believe, who informed Alice that things sometimes worked that way in the Looking-glass Country. He was in prison; to-morrow he would be tried, and on the next day he was to commit the offense. But "Outsider" is not a humorist, like LEWIS CARROLL, and he presents with perfect gravity his hypothesis of a reversed universe.

The discussion runs a little wider afield to-day. The theological element appears, though only by way of demonstrating that SPENCER'S attempted reconciliation of Science and Religion was labor lost. We still await with hope somewhat deferred the appearance in the lists of some devout and practiced defender of the faith who will undertake to demolish SPENCER in the good old orthodox way.

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