

Upon viewing⁽¹⁾ the nebulae in
Orion the other night, the
following lines were sug-
gested. I have shown them
to Mr W E Woodford, a practi-
cal astronomer, who wishes
me to enlarge the subject &
publish my reflections.

"By a process of reasoning
& observation upon which all
astronomers are agreed, I am
led to believe that out of
the most primal form of
matter, recognizable by our
senses, have grown all the
various substances with
which we are acquainted in
nature. This primal form of
matter, so far as ^{we} know, is
hydrogen, or something closely
allied, & presents the appearance

(2)
of a faint nebulosity floating
in space, upon curdling or
condensing, sufficient for its
light to be examined by
spectrum analysis, we see as-
sociated with the hydrogen,
as infinitely fine dust, many
of the terrestrial elements,
such as oxygen, magnesium
silicon, sulphur, iron & carbon;
and all the nebulae, neb-
ulous suns, other suns &
the planets or the worlds grow
out of a further condensation
of this primal matter. Now just
here two singular but pertinent
questions are suggested, first,
were all the germs of vital & mental
energy associated with this inor-
ganic matter from the beginning; or
second, were they added at some sub-
sequent time, & from without? The ev-
idence seems strongly adverse to the
idea of any original association
of the life germ with this primal mat-
ter, because, in condensing into suns
& worlds, it is subjected to such a degree
of heat, as to preclude all possibility of
the concurrent existence of any protoplasm
or vital energy. If we answer

affirmatively, the second question, then where or
when in the history of cosmical evolution
were matter & spirit associated or did life
begin,? There truly is food for reflection,
In all my investigations I have never seen
yet where science "had the best of religion"
the deeper the research the more convincing is
the supernatural origin of all things & the un-
prejudiced, scientific mind is rapidly coming to
that conclusion."