

that the passage which you have just read explains Newman's history. When he came to see the condition of the world into which he was thrown the aspect of it was unspeakably distressing. His whole efforts have been spent in finding a solution of the problem which would make existence on such terms less intolerable.

On the same broad ground on which Cardinal Newman places himself, I will shift the lights, and let the shadows fall the other way. Following his own analogy of the outcast boy, I will suppose a reasonable being with faculties limited like ours, with a belief in God like ours, but with no more immediate knowledge, suddenly introduced from another planet into our own earth, confronted with the phenomena which Cardinal Newman describes, and asked for an explanation of them, consistent with his religious conviction. Would such a being infer that the race which he was studying was implicated in some terrible aboriginal calamity? I do not see how the inference would help him. I think if he was wise he would feel his inability to give any explanation at all. But I suppose that before attempting the problem he would look into the past history of the earth, and into the various races of animated beings by which it was occupied.