

Men and animals breathe in oxygen, utilize it, and then breathe it out in the form of carbon dioxide. Yet even millions of years of life would not exhaust the available oxygen, for God has provided a means of keeping it always available. Green foliage, under the influence of light, utilizes the carbon dioxide that exists in the air in minute quantities, in such a way as to produce substances that are urgently needed for human life, and, in addition, to release some of the oxygen from the carbon and thus make it again available for respiration. Thus, nature, as God has made it, has a balance that makes it possible for animals and plants to continue existing without exhausting the oxygen from the air.

The wonderful provision that God has made for man's life is shown in the way in which he has arranged it so that fresh water is available in most parts of the world. The water flows through streams and is purified. It comes up in springs and is made available for man's use.

A special sign of God's provision for mankind is found in His remarkable arrangements about the freezing of water. Ordinarily substances of every type contract as they become colder and expand as they become warmer. When a liquid cools off enough to be changed into a solid state, it usually contracts a good deal. Among the rare exceptions to this rule is found one of the commonest substances in the world;--water. Although water ordinarily contracts as it becomes colder and expands as it becomes warmer, when it freezes it does not contract, but expands, so that the ice occupies more space than the water did before it froze. This is different from almost every other substance. It is a wonderful provision by which God has made possible for human life to continue upon the earth. Without it men and animals would long ago have died out everywhere except in tropical regions.

If it were not for this provision, when a stream begins to freeze the water would contract as it became ice, so that the ice would be heavier than the water