Hence without parents, by spontaneous birth.
Rise the first specks of animated earth . . . .
Organic life beneath the shoreless waves
Was born and nursed in ocean's pearly caves:
First, forms minute, unseen by spheric glass,
Move in the mud or pierce the watery mass;
These, as successive generations bloom.
New powers acquire, and large limbs assume;
Whence countless groups of vegetation spring,
And breathing realms of fin and feet and wing.

Erasmus Darwin¹, from "The Temple of Nature," 1802

¹ Erasmus Darwin was the grandfather of Charles Darwin.