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THE RELIGION OF HUMANITY.

HUMAN worship is not a new thing under the sun. In one form or another it dates back to a period to which the memory of man runneth not. Among the ancient Romans it took the form of hero-worship. Men who distinguished themselves during their lives as defenders and benefactors of their country were given a place in the Pantheon after their death, and became the objects of worship. In China it takes another form. There, if the worship of ancestors may not be said to be the religion of the people, it at least forms an important part of it. These may be taken as instances of very ancient forms of this cult. The invocation of the saints and the modified worship of the Virgin Mary in the Roman Catholic Church belong to the same category.

In all these forms of human worship, however, the worship of man is, at least theoretically, held to be subordinate to the worship of something higher. Even the apotheosis of Mary is not so complete that the Church of Rome does not distinguish between the worship which is due to her and that which belongs of right to the Divine Father. Practically she seems to be placed above God, and perhaps it is not too much to say that ten acts of worship are offered to her for every one that is offered to God; nevertheless, theoretically, she is not held to be equal with God, or to be entitled to precisely the same kind of worship. And this was true of the exalted personages who