

which they approached Him ? The story of the sacrifices of Cain and Abel is at least a puzzling one, and might be consistent with either view. Did they conceive of Him as a loving father or as a just judge only who resented the breaking of His law, and sternly exacted the threatened penalty of disobedience ? In the story of the fall there is undoubtedly grace as well as justice. But justice predominates, and there is a wide gap between the protevangel to the first mother of all and the full gospel of grace in the ministry of the virgin born.

But after all reasonable or possible deduction has been made from the completeness of the monotheism attributed to the founders of our race it is quite evident that we are still a long way from the modern theory. It seems much more likely that the ultimate reconciliation will come, when it does come, from a pretty radical modification of the theory. It is not improbable that this will take place in the near future.

To begin with, the theory in its present form is but meagrely supported by facts. There is no evidence at all that man was ever without a religion of some kind. There have, of course, been individuals who were irreligious, all too many of them. There have been multitudes on whom their religion exerted little or no practical influence for good, and there have been a few professed atheists. But no people has never yet been discovered without religious ideas and religious rites of some sort. Apart from the line of Judaism and its historic affiliates, Christianity and Mohammedanism, there is no clear case of a people rising from a lower form of religion to a higher save through outside influence. There have been numerous cases of degeneracy from the higher forms to the lower. If the theory were true, then we would expect to find that the whole world, heathen as well as Christian, now stood religiously at a point far in advance of what it was two or four thousand years ago. It is notorious that the very reverse is the case ; and that, not only among savage tribes, but also under the comparatively high civilizations of India and China. If we may