

PHILO AND THE NEW TESTAMENT.

I. SYNOPSIS OF LECTURES.*

The main object of the Lectures is to determine how far there is a similarity of method and ideas between Philo and New Testament writers, and, if so, what is the explanation of the similarity. Hardly less important is the question as to the essential difference between them; for two writers may present striking resemblances in their general mode of expression and in special phrases, and may yet be widely apart in their theory of life. To answer these questions intelligently demands some familiarity with the writings of Philo. As a convenient introduction to the subject, part of the treatise on *The Mosaic Account of Creation* will be carefully examined.

A. Philo's Theory of Creation.

In § 1 of this work Philo expresses his belief that the Pentateuch contains a complete and final revelation. This belief extends to the Septuagint, every word and even letter of which he regards as inspired. The modern distinction between scientific and religious truth he would have rejected as impious. For him the Mosaic writings contain a complete philosophy or theology, and this he

*It is hoped that members of the Conference will make themselves familiar with the *Synopsis* and the *Extracts*.