

III

THE FUNCTION OF CONSCIENCE IN INTERPRETING THE BIBLE

I

WHAT is the relation of Conscience to the Bible? It is the relation of the pupil to the teacher. But with this startling paradox, that the pupil which needs the teaching for its enlightenment yet insists on judging that teaching before it can accept it.

As already pointed out, this Conscience for which we make such lofty claims begins life in the baby stage, needing, like Intellect, like all our faculties, to be developed and educated. Life presents to it continual examples and continual exercise in choices of good and evil. The Bible brings it in touch with the noblest consciences of humanity, and above all brings it into the presence of the Blessed Lord Himself.