

The lecturer went on to show how religion—belief in doctrine—had been the root of the whole moral life of the children of Israel ; how belief in Jehovah was the mainspring and dominant factor in their individual, social, and natural life, being the foundation alike of their worship and of their conduct. Doctrines are as necessary to moral and spiritual life, as are physical laws to the scientist's studies and the mechanic's labours. Religion based on doctrine was shown to be the sole foundation of duty ; and duty was shown to be the sole foundation of society. Nothing could ever deliver the race from selfishness, save belief in the fatherhood of God, and, founded on that and springing from it, 'the brotherhood of man.'

The lecturer next traced the importance assigned, and the value attached, by all the wisest legislators of ancient times, to religion, and to the systematic and doctrinal teaching of it ; how they made use of it in family and school, in market-place and state ; how they used it in founding, and rearing, and consolidating, the social and political edifice. Plato and other eminent sages were quoted in support.

The lecturer then went on to show how the moral life of a people, as indicated by history, had always corresponded with its religious beliefs : as the faith, so the life. The doctrine of Jehovah was to Israel no barren inoperative creed, but the basis of, and the most living factor in, their moral life. It was quite true that virtues—high virtues, a lofty morality, could be pointed to in individuals here and there to-day, which apparently were without a religious root ; but where are these individuals found ? In an atmosphere and environment long prepared and enriched by the influences of religious thought and belief. These men are drawing nourishment, though they may be unconscious of it, or deny it, from the very faith which they would disown ; but in which the seeds of their moral life were first planted and rooted. History can give no instances of a strong, healthy, natural morality surviving the decadence