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THE MATERIALS OF APOLOGETICS.

HAVING explained the three-fold office of Christian apologetics, —defence, vindication, refutation—a rapid survey of the wide domain in which the materials of discussion chiefly lie must now be made. That domain may be divided into three great sections: First, there is what may be called fundamental or philosophical apologetics, where the great debate is between the theistic and anti-theistic theories of the universe; secondly, there is what may be termed historical or evidential apologetics, where the gist of the controversy is between the supernatural and anti-supernatural views of the Bible and Christianity; and thirdly, we have what, for want of a better term, we may designate polemical or irenical apologetics, where the main topics of discussion relate to the bearing of modern scientific research upon a divine revelation such as the Bible sets forth, and upon a supernatural system such as Christianity is. A very brief sketch of each of these sections of apologetic discussions may give some idea of the *materials* which must engage the attention of the apologete in the discharge of his high office.

Prof. Beattie, in his inaugural lecture, delivered at the close of last session, discussed the question of "Christian Apologetics—its function, scope and spirit." The discussion of the materials of apologetics is complete in itself, and is the most important part of the lecture.—ED. K.C.M.