

of reason. Men, indeed, show a strong desire to deny God, and they act very much as if the thought of their heart were there is no God ; but in this they sin heinously and become self-condemned ; for there is in them a conscience ever ready to rebuke their error and punish their impiety. Pearson on the Creed spoke forcibly when he said, " let Caligula profess himself an atheist, and with that profession hide his head, or run under his bed, when the thunder strikes his ears, and lightening flashes in his eyes ; those terrible works of nature put him in mind of the power, and his own guilt of the justice of God, whom, while in his wilful opinion he weakly denieth, in his involuntary action he strongly asserteth. So that a deity will be granted or extorted, and where it is not acknowledged it will be manifested. Only unhappy is that man who denies him to himself, and proves him to others ; who will not acknowledge his existence, of whose power he cannot be ignorant." Men may imagine a God to themselves as they please. They may conceive of him as a possible or necessary Being without attributes ; they may clothe him with the properties of the finite universe ; they may describe him as an absolute idea ever coming and going in their own mind, or in nature ; they may speak of him as an endless process of development ; they may look on him as an infinite and eternal energy ; they may picture him as an image reflected in the shifting mirror of their own fancy ; they may suppose him to be the essence and virtue of humanity ; or they may exhibit him as the