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STAFF.

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Matter for publication may be sent to A. J. McLeod, B.A. : business letters to C. A. Webster, B.A., Knox College, Toronto, Ont.

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THE DESIGN ARGUMENT.

ITS SCOPE AND IMPORT.

THE theistic controversy has vital and abiding interest. The evidence by which the belief in a personal God justifies itself to human reason is extensive and varied. The proof runs along many converging lines, and the argument is essentially cumulative in its nature.

This article proposes to deal with one of these lines of proof. It will discuss what is popularly known as the argument from design, or final causes. Its aim will be to indicate the scope and import of this argument. For over twenty centuries the proof of existence of God which the marks of design in nature supply, has had much influence on the human mind. The argument is as old as Socrates, and it is concisely stated and forcibly illustrated by Cicero. In modern times, Paley and scores have elaborated it in various directions with vast wealth of illustration.