

RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENTS

INTRODUCTION ¹

FROM the times of the primitive Church down to the last century it was the generally accepted view, except in the case of a few isolated scholars, that the Old Testament was closed in the fifth century B.C., and that in the interval between the fifth century and the New Testament no divine voice had broken the silence, no divine message been sent to the faithful remnant of Israel, and no development had been achieved by the righteous seekers after God in Palestine. All these positions have now been abandoned by scholars and by the vast body of educated people. So far from the Old Testament being

¹ In the chapters that follow I have, with a view to clearness, not hesitated to restate facts and inferences that had already been dealt with at fuller length elsewhere in this little book.