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CELSUS: THE FIRST PAGAN CRITIC OF CHRISTIANITY, AND HIS ANTICIPATION OF MODERN THOUGHT.

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It is an interesting glimpse that we get through a historic vista of sixteen hundred and fifty years of the intellectual and literary activity of the church at Alexandria. Origen, that sweet-hearted, large-minded theologian and scholar, has made it the seat of his labors. Under the patronage of his generous friend Ambrosius, he is devoting himself with tremendous industry to the production of works which are to survive the rust and blight of sixteen centuries. This wealthy friend and patron has kindly provided him with seven shorthand writers, who relieve each other at stated times, and with an equal number of transcribers, together with young girls who act as copyists, and who prepare for publication the matter he has dictated. What literary opulence for a man who had been accustomed to live on four obols a day, and who had literally construed the command of Jesus not to possess two coats or to wear shoes! But Ambrose pays the bills.

Origen, having offended his ecclesiastical superiors at Alexandria, took himself to Caesarea, where he soon developed large influence. The friendship of Ambrose did not desert him; and one day Origen received from his benefactor a book which had excited great attention in the heathen world, written in Greek, bearing the title *Logos Aethes*, or "True Discourse." It was a powerful arraignment of the beliefs of the Christians. Still more, it was an earnest appeal to Christians to be reconciled to the existing order of things. It was written by a man of immense learning, who had ranged through the vast fields of Greek literature; who knew its poets and philosophers, its history and mythology; who quotes from Homer, Hesiod, Pindar, Heraclitus, Herodotus, Euripides and many others; who was deeply imbued with the philosophy of Plato, and had studied the religious systems of the Jews, the Egyptians, the Persians, the Indians; a man of wide travel, a student of art and science, a social economist, a patriot with a profound interest in the welfare of the State. And all this vast learning was gathered and wielded with immense force by a mind of philosophic grasp, breadth of sympathy, critical acumen, brilliant wit, and at times capable of glowing eloquence. This book was written by one Celsus. Who this Celsus was, Origen