

of creating the speech which has been the spiritual mother-tongue of the saints of sixty generations? Why were its early traditions so wholly unlike those of other nations? 'Where,' we ask ourselves, as we read the Book of Psalms, 'where, in those rough, cruel days, did they come from, these piercing, lightning-like gleams of strange spiritual truth, these magnificent outlooks over the kingdom of God, these pure outpourings of the love of God?'<sup>1</sup> What was it that made the religion of Israel to differ from that of all the peoples about her? How came it to pass that while they gave themselves up to unclean and cruel rites, Israel alone was able to possess herself of a pure and unobscuring faith? Whence, amid the debasing polytheisms of the centuries before Christ, came that great prophetic conception of religion which still stirs the cold heart of an unbelieving scientist, like one of the supreme works of human genius?

I should not omit to remind you that recent study of the world of the Old Testament has

<sup>1</sup> R. W. Church's *Discipline of the Christian Character*, p. 57.