

their extension, but their character, we can have no hesitation in pronouncing Christianity the most universal of religions. and that because it is best qualified for its moral task to inspire and consecrate the personal life. Islam and Buddhism alike fail to acquit themselves beyond a certain point. There they find a line drawn which they cannot pass because their origin forbids it."

Buddhism is altogether unsuited to active, progressive life. It has no ideal, no future, no hope. The sweetness and unselfishness of its founder gave it a mighty impulse at the beginning and its expansion was marvellous. But it fails to meet the great want of the human heart and mind. It proposes destruction rather than satisfaction. It is not possible for it to maintain its hold upon the advancing families of the earth. It turns from the throbbing realities of life. It negates the struggles of mankind for advancement. It has erected for itself a barrier which will prevent it from being universal. "So it was that after the first mighty wave of compassion has spent itself, it had settled down into quietness, indifference and despairing scepticism—a condition from which it will not likely revive, inasmuch as it has no great ideal of life to draw it ever onward and upward."

Mohammedanism served good purposes in bringing nations and tribes up from an idolatrous plane to the monotheistic worship. It has had wonderful history, but it cannot pass the limit imposed upon it by its origin. It has been aptly called a case of "arrested progress." In the bondage of its code it cannot go beyond a certain limit. It is contracted in its sacred book, the Koran. It is contracted in having a geographical centre. It may suit individuals and tribes that have not advanced beyond code and ceremony, but must always yield to the advance of higher and expansive life.

How very different it is with Christianity. It is not cribbed or cabined, or confined in any way. It has all the mutability, expansiveness and adaptability of a living, growing thing. Christianity has a perfect adaptation to all nations, all classes, and an expansiveness beyond which thought cannot go. We soon reach the limit of a mere code