

The Atonement.

We purpose to deal with this great subject from four viewpoints :—

- 1st. The Scriptural.
- 2nd. The Historical.
- 3rd. The Anglican.
- 4th. The Practical.

The importance of the subject is obvious. The Atonement is Christianity in epitome. It is the heart of Christianity as a system ; it is the differentia of the Christian religion. For Christianity is more than a revelation ; it is more than an ethic. Christianity is uniquely a religion of redemption. At the outset we take the ground that no one can clearly apprehend this great theme who is not prepared to take Scripture as it stands, and to treat it as the final and authoritative source of knowledge, and the test of every theory. Any statement of the Atonement, to completely satisfy the truly intelligent Christian, must not antagonize any of the Biblical viewpoints. And, further ; to fairly approach the subject, one must receive with a certain degree of reservation the somewhat exaggerated representations of what some modern writers conceive to be the views of orthodoxy. What present-day theologian, for instance, in systematizing the theory of the vicarious Atonement, has ever expressed the thought of an obstinate punisher venting his vengeance on an innocent substitute, and consenting, therefore, to treat the wicked untruly and unrighteously, as if they were what they are not ; or ever said that Christ died because God was insulted and must punish somebody ; or ever set forth the Atonement as the propitiating of an angry monarch—God, taking