

redemption for mankind in Christ. The continuous unfolding of this purpose is the golden thread which runs mysteriously throughout the entire fabric of Old Testament revelation. Thus Hebrew prophecy differs from heathen prophecy in *kind*, as well as in *degree*. God gave the Hebrew prophets, from age to age, a series of divine revelations, such as were not given to the prophets of any other people on the earth.

Besides carefully discriminating Hebrew from heathen prophecy, by showing how the former is essentially differentiated from the latter, I have tried to emphasize the fact that whatever spiritual elements belonged to primitive prophecy in its oracular or undeveloped stage, they were directly due to the operation of the Divine Spirit upon the human spirit. In Hebrew prophecy, the oracular features gradually disappeared, until it became almost wholly spiritual, in pagan prophecy, the spiritual features gradually disappeared until it became almost entirely oracular. The general description of heathen prophets given in Deut. xviii. 10-12 confirms this explanation. "Hebrew prophecy," as I have said, "was a development upwards; pagan prophecy was a development downwards—a degeneration into soothsaying and superstition."

There is nothing dishonoring to God, or inconsistent with Scripture, in thus claiming that some true knowledge of the Deity is found outside of Judaism, and that some instances of genuine prophecy appear inside of heathenism. On the contrary, this claim or supposition gives us a grander idea of God, a loftier conception of revelation, and a truer appreciation of prophetic inspiration. It enables us to realize that all that was elevating or ennobling in the great religions of the ancient nations was of God, who, of old time by 'divers portions and in divers manners,' has spoken by his Spirit unto the prophets of every primitive people on the earth.

THE ORIGIN OF PROPHECY.

The origin of prophecy is twofold. It has both a human and a divine side. On the human side, as I have said, "it seems to have sprung from a deep desire for knowledge in respect to spiritual realities and temporal contingencies." On