

now clearer than ever, that the material world has never been able to furnish man, as a religious being, with the light which he needs. "It is," says Prof. Flint, "an indubitable, historical fact that, outside of the sphere of special revelation, man has never obtained such a knowledge of God as a responsible and religious being plainly requires."

"What, then, is the inference?" says Drummond in "Natural Law in the Spiritual World:" "That this poor rush-light by itself was never meant to lend the ray by which man should read the riddle of the universe. The mystery is too impenetrable and remote for its uncertain flicker to more than make the darkness deeper."

Reasoning, then, from analogy, it may be said that "a general belief renders a corresponding reality highly probable, and such belief represents the total outcome of a race-experience, the impressions which the universe and the phenomena of our own existence has made upon us."

Mr. Conder, in his "Basis of Theism," has well said:

"The basis of man's faith is neither cloud nor quicksand, but solid rock. Man's nature is not a lie. Man is not the orphan-heir of the universe. His deepest and sublimest instinct is not a fond, vain yearning after an idol of the imagination—a colossal reflection of himself in the infinite void. The uncounted millions of human spirits are not fatherless, nor is human life an eternal drifting nowhence, nowhither, without chart or harbor, sun or star. The universe is not a riddle without an answer, a language without meaning, a soulless dance of atoms, a dream-mist, overhanging the abyss of the unknowable."

If then there is a grand and everlasting answer to the religious anticipations of mankind, where, we ask, shall that answer be found?

In reply, we call attention to—

THE VARIOUS RESPONSES WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND NEEDS OF THE RACE.

We notice the reply which ATHEISM presents.

In view of previous statements and the imposing facts which mark the religious history of the past, how utterly absurd are the positions which distinguish the bold negations proclaimed