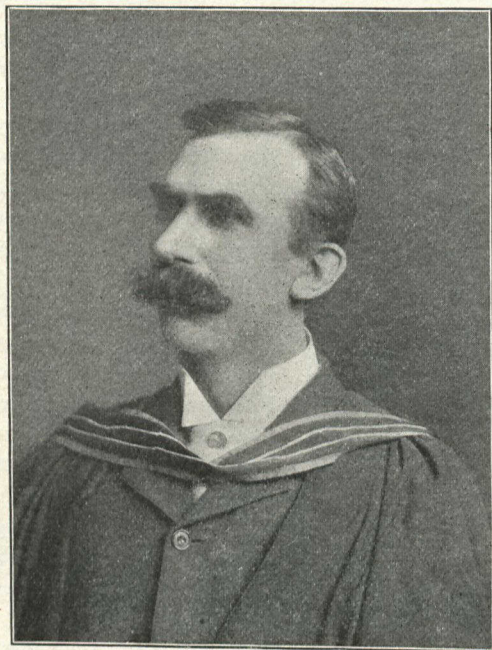


learn its lessons ; he may apply those lessons in the present ; he may look forward and strive successfully to realize what is ideal. Man not only "rules nature by obeying her laws," he rules also the one who rules nature—himself—and he may demand from himself that he should enter upon a new line of action that has in view and requires the complete transformation of his present self-hood ; he may "lose his life to save it." Now this free act and moral decision, this con-



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scious struggling transformation of the character, is the field of "individual reform."

That this struggle towards perfection of character and conduct requires for success a reverent love for and devotion to the supreme ideal ; that this supreme ideal is Perfect Personality, and that this spiritual process is one in which the struggling moral agent may receive in some way assistance and strength and renewing, is the central thought of Christianity, which not only asserts that the human soul must