

the reconstruction process does not stop even here; for those moral distinctions which were supposed to lie in the nature of things are included in the all-embracing material development, and we must have new "Data of Ethics" from the fertile brain of Mr. Herbert Spencer, or a new "Science of Ethics" from Mr. Leslie Stephen, to take the place of the discarded Law of God; and thus everything is reconstructed on the basis of the barest materialism. Now, does not the necessity for such wholesale reconstruction of everything render that dogma of the infidel, which calls for it all, just a little suspicious?

On the other hand, take the Christian conception. It harmonizes, as we have seen, with human nature in all its complexity; it harmonizes with those thoughts of God which the best of men have had in all ages; it harmonizes with what we cannot but believe as to the immovable foundations of right and wrong; it harmonizes with the gospels as we find them, without any manipulation like that which is resorted to by our imaginative reconstructors; it harmonizes with the Bible as it has come down to us from the past; it harmonizes with the great facts of the history of Christianity in the world; it harmonizes with individual Christian experience; it harmonizes with those hopes and aspirations of which the best of men are conscious in their best and purest moments. And is not all this a mighty confirmation of its truth? Let us then by all means cast aside that miserable dogma, which begins by "eliminating" the superhuman element from the life of Jesus, and ends by destroying the very foundations of morality; and, with our feet securely planted on the "Rock of Ages," let us still raise to highest heaven the song:

"All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall,
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all."