

of the heavens and the earth, connected with the coming of the Messiah. Among other things, this shaking is supposed to include the removal of everything temporal and transitory, of everything typical and preparatory, of everything imperfect and incomplete. In contrast to the temporary character of all other kingdoms, the Messiah's kingdom, he asserts, is permanent. Pertaining to His kingdom, there are certain things which are unalterable and imperishable. What things are these? They are the eternal and immutable elements of Gospel; in other words, the verities, or vital truths, of the Christianity of Christ.

I. God. The first religious certainty, or Gospel verity, to begin with the most fundamental of all religious conceptions, is God. Faith in God is not only the opening article of the Apostles' Creed, but also the foundation-truth on which religion rests.

That is to say, belief in God is fundamental to any kind of religion, amongst any race of people, in any age of the world. All religious worship is based on this belief. Without some sort of faith in a Divine Being, man does not bend the knee, or bow the head, or lift the heart in prayer.

The doctrine of Deity, which has almost universally obtained, in some form or other, ever since primeval ages, has not been shaken by any discovery in science, or by any development of truth. On the contrary, transmitted from prehistoric times, belief in God has become more deeply cherished and more firmly rooted in the heart of humanity, as the centuries have come and gone.

This fact admits of easy explanation. Theistic belief is due, in part, to man's sense of dependence upon a power that is higher than human; in part, to his need of assistance from One who is wiser than he; in part, to his desire for fellowship with a Spirit that is holier than his; in part, also, to his inability to explain his own being without assuming the existence of an infinite and eternal Being, who has life, and power, and wisdom and holiness in Himself.

Man must postulate God's existence in order to account for his own existence. Comparatively few believe—comparatively few have ever believed—that things have come by chance, much