

Power of the Supernatural Over Man.

CORRUPT human nature struggles in vain to get rid of God. The struggle has always been in vain, but man always returns to it. The Italian philosopher, Vico, expressed this truth, on the scale of history, in his *theory of ricorsi*, the theory that "the history of civilization is composed of successive cycles, each cycle embracing a divine, a heroic, and a human age, each cycle ending in corruption through wealth, the movement then reverting to the primal stage of another cycle"—or back to *God*.

Comte, who probably borrowed the hint from the greater Vico, reduced the history of the race to three stages—the theological, the metaphysical, and the positive—and thereby succeeded, as it seemed to him, in "conducting God to the confines of the universe and bowing Him out" as no longer necessary. But the Nemesis came, and even Comte was forced to bring back the supernatural by introducing his "Grand Being" as a God for himself and the French people. God was not to be gotten rid of.

So the "scientists falsely so called," who have been so long dominated by Comte's positivism, are being forced back to the acknowledgment of the supernatural. Regarding this reactionary trend, *The Independent* recently said:

"Nothing is more striking than the present development of thought, as related to religion and theology, than the return to the Christian view of the reality of the supernatural world. We have been passing through a dreary period characterized by bold and sometimes desperate attempts to get rid of the supernatural altogether, to remove it beyond the sphere of human interest and recognition, or to extend the natural so far as to remove the line of demarcation and make the two spheres one. The futility of these attempts to solve the highest problems of existence by denying their reality or their importance, is beginning to be asserted again, and in circles of too much influence to be easily overlooked."

God will not down at the bidding of these would-be conjurers. Professor

Romanes, whose spiritual history is given by Dr. Dewart in the present number of this REVIEW, is one of the best recent illustrations of the hold of the supernatural on the human soul.

Is There Hope for Armenia?

FROM the point of view of human diplomacy the case of Armenia has at times seemed almost hopeless; but great moral issues have God back of them, and God will win in the end.

The Eastern Question has had connected with it the greatest national crimes of the nineteenth century; but note how it is running its course. The great Powers of Europe have done their best to uphold Turkey in her work of oppressing the Christians of southeastern Europe and southwestern Asia, but their efforts are becoming more and more futile.

At the opening of the second quarter of the century Greece, then the principal source of Turkish revenue, became free, by a special providence and practically in spite of Great Britain and France, which Powers however limited the area of Greece in the interests of the Turk.

At the opening of the second quarter of the century Great Britain joined with France in the Crimean War to wrest from Russia her treaty-right as protector of the Christians of Turkey,—which they accomplished, having apparently crushed Russia.

Twenty years later the butcheries of the Turk in Europe became unendurable, the great Slavic rising occurred, and regenerated Russia came to the rescue and, at an immense cost of blood and treasure, forced the Turk to make the Treaty of San Stefano which provided freedom for the Christians of the Turkish Empire. But Beaconsfield, through the Congress of Berlin and by two iniquitous secret treaties, one with Russia and one with Turkey, overthrew that treaty and substituted the Treaty of Berlin, which remanded the Christians of the Macedonian belt and