

wage warfare with emanation theories. Mahomet, indeed, gave the former a strong though temporary support, forfeited at last by Averroes and his followers. Finally, evolutionary views have come in once more with the victory of the Natural Sciences, although creationism holds its ground, and emanationists of many degrees divide the field with their votaries. This merely by way of illustration.

Restricting our survey to Theology proper, I propose briefly to sketch the evolution of the moral idea of Divinity, and its corresponding functions towards humanity. In this sphere, of course, ontology cannot be altogether foreign to divine ethic.

After the obscuration of the primitive Edenic concept of God, consequent on personal revelation, of the nature of which we know little owing to the briefness of our record of the world's thinking infancy, we find that man's idea of God was that of a partial divinity. I use the word partial as denoting moral quality and personal relation. God, by whatever name called, was the god of a nation, tribe, or sept, of hill or plain, of land or sea. Upon the vexed question of the origin of mythology I do not enter; yet polytheism everywhere seems to have arisen from an aggregation into one system of local and tribal deities, with or without the exaltation of one of them into a recognized head. There was no always supreme Egyptian god, nor was there any such in the Assyrian and Vedic Pantheons, yet, in poetic literature and artistic delineation, the gods are represented as going forth before the armies of their worshippers to fight against their enemies. "We are the people of the Lord," was their cry, echoes of which are found everywhere even to-day. The Hebrew found it hard to shake himself free from this partial idea. Jehovah was his God, his deliverer, the hater and the slayer of his enemies. This "people of the Lord are we," lies at the foundation of many systems of theology, strong systems for a time, making often for valour and liberty, but tending in the long run to slavery of soul through self-sufficiency and pharisaism, with contempt and even hatred of other humanity. It is the anti-