

gradual elevation of its central Venerated Man into a God of the highest might and power ; the multiplication of secondary deities or saints by worship or adoration of other Dead Men and Women ; the growth of a graduated and duly subordinated hierarchy of divine personages ; the rise of a legend, with its miracles and other supernatural adjuncts ; the formation of a definite theology, philosophy, and systematic dogmatism ; the development of special artistic forms, and the growth or adoption of appropriate symbolism ; the production of sacred books, rituals, and formularies ; the rise of ceremonies, mysteries, initiations, and sacraments ; the reverence paid to relics, sacred sites, tombs, and dead bodies ; and the close connexion of the religion as a whole with the ideas of death, the soul, the ghost, the spirit, the resurrection of the body, the last judgment, hell, heaven, the life everlasting, and all the other vast group of concepts which surround the simple fact of death in the primitive human mind generally.

Now, in the second place, let us look wherein Christianity to a certain small extent fails to be typical, or at least to solve our fundamental problems.

It fails to be typical because it borrows largely a whole ready-made theology, and above all a single supreme God, from a pre-existent religion. In so far as it takes certain minor features from other cults, we can hardly say with truth that it does not represent the average run of religious systems ; for almost every particular new creed so bases itself upon elements of still earlier faiths ; and it is perhaps impossible for us at the present day to get back to anything like a really primitive or original form of cult. But Christianity is very far removed indeed from all primitive cults in that it accepts ready-made the monotheistic conception, the high-water-mark, so to speak, of religious philosophising. While in the frankness with which it exhibits to us what is practically one half of its supreme deity as a Galilean peasant of undoubted humanity, subsequently deified and etherealised, it allows us to get down at a sin-