

God must educate the world ; it is His purpose to establish a heavenly kingdom on this earth ; the heavenly Jerusalem is to be let down into this world. Christ's business is to save not only our souls, but our bodies as well ; yea, even the whole unintelligent creation is to share in this redemptive work. To educate the world, the Almighty must step down Himself into the world and identify Himself with its inhabitants ; this is the most distinguishing feature of Christianity ; this is what makes it superior to all others, for in all other systems man struggles upward to find the Absolute, the Infinite. Man, in order to reach the highest perfection, must have a perfect pattern constantly before him. Only Christianity has set before men this goal. Man craves an incarnate God, and however his brains may stagger underneath this majestic problem, his homesick heart knows no rest till it rests upon the bosom of the Man divine. " Man craves a deity embodied in human form, walking among men, partaking of their infirmities, leaning on their bosoms, weeping over their graves, slumbering in the manger, bleeding on the cross." In these words Macaulay voices the sentiment of the race. The severe monotheism of Islam can only hope to compete successfully with Christianity if it recognizes this stupendous mystery. But the infinite God cannot make Himself known all at once to finite man ; for that purpose millenniums are required, and different races require different methods to bring them to the fullest perfection. Fifteen centuries passed by before the Jewish race could grasp the divine attributes, such as justice, mercy, holiness, fitting them thus to become the educators of the ancient world. Christ could not come any sooner than He did, for the world could not have understood His doctrines any sooner. A character like Paul was the result of these fifteen centuries' teaching ; and God, sending this fairest flower of Judaism into Europe, reclaimed that continent for Christ after fifteen other weary centuries had worn away. God first trained a man, then a nation, then a continent ; now the hour for universal knowledge of divine things has arrived. The Christian nations of Europe and America are to be the world's educators ; the time when they shall possess the whole world seems not very distant ; they are fitted to undertake this difficult task to-day ; they can demand respect from all non-Christian nations ; they were not so fitted two hundred years ago. This nineteenth century is one of preparation ; the twentieth will rid the world of a vast amount of superstition by the revelation God is giving us through science ; the twenty-first will see nations born in a day. All the signs of the times seem to indicate that God has chosen the Anglo-Saxons to be the world's religious teachers. We need not be alarmed about Rome's pretensions, her day has been. Latin Christianity was preparatory to Anglo-Saxon Christianity. Latin Christianity is Petrine ; Anglo-Saxon Christianity is Pauline, becoming all things to all men in order to save all. The dominant Christianity of the day is broad enough to recognize some phases of truth in all religious systems. Other religions generally emphasize only one side of the truth at the expense of the other.