

Now, for this faith that is in us we ought to be able to give good reason. We should be able to state why we believe the Christian religion to be the fulfilment of all the good, all the virtues and verities in other religions, and destined to be the one absolute and universal religion. We present the following as the grounds of our belief :

I. Because we have the highest possible conception of God. Every religion is as its conception of God, from fetishism up to Christianity. No conception of God is equal to, and none can possibly go beyond the conception of God given in the New Testament. The Revelation of the Fatherhood of God, given in and by Christ, far transcends the noblest monotheistic conception of the Mohammedan, or even of the Jew. In this Christian idea are embodied all the best thoughts of men of all ages who have been " Seekers after God." This conception of God the Father must ultimately prevail and become universal.

II. In the second place we can point to the Bible and claim that here we have a book that is unique and supreme among all books of sacred literature. We are not called upon in defence of the Bible to deny or disparage the excellence of other sacred books. We accept them—we rejoice in them. On the other hand, we are not called upon to lower our claim for the Bible, because some one gives us an excellent string of quotations gathered from these books, and asks us : " Have you anything better in your Bible ?" There are grains of pure gold in heaps and heaps of trash. But there are at least two great contrasts that should be noted. In other books we have men's thoughts about God, and man's strivings to reach God. In the Bible we have God's revelation of Himself, and His thoughts about man and for man and His acts reaching out to man's redemption. Another contrast may be noted, which is this : In other literatures, as seen in India, Egypt, China, &c., there is progress steadily downward. In the Bible the progress is steadily upward until it culminates in Christ. We have a right to press this argument for all it is worth. Why is it that we have the higher monotheistic revelation far back in the history of