

league at Gottingen. Surely one who drank deeply at the wells of Kant, Schleiermacher, Nietzsche, Neander, Hengstenberg, Muller, Tholuck, Erdmann, Rothe, Baur and Lotze, and retained the tang of all, had touched most of the springs of thought of his age.

But every focus is also thereby a radiant. Ritschl, himself an epitome of his time, and more sensitively alive to its currents than to the sweep of the ages, could not but appeal powerfully in turn to all who had come under the influence of the time-spirit. This youngest of the theologians arose at a time when in Hegelianism metaphysics had outstepped its true bounds and been discredited, when historical criticism in the Tubingen school had run its devastating course and brought as its recoil a demand for a positive theology; when the proud claim of physical science for evolution as a cosmic process—i.e., as all-comprehensive—had failed, and left, at the very least, the moral problem of man in the world, unsolved; when a cold dogmatism was felt unsatisfying and the cry for Life emphasized; when the religious and the scientific conceptions of the world seemed to stand in complete antagonism, and miracle was the one bugbear shunned by serious thought; when the old question of the seat of authority in religion was once more eagerly disputed; when Pantheism was laying its seductive touch on the doctrine of the immanence of God, and the consciousness of Christ had become a foremost object of investigation; when social questions were pressing to the front with the insistence of conscious right-of-way; when the fresh young science of Biblical Theology was binding its first rich sheaves; and when, as always, the perennial problem of the soul's needs, refusing to down, pressed for solution.

Now, to quote the words of Dr. Orr, "the more narrowly the new movement is scrutinized, the clearer it becomes that its peculiar attractiveness lies just in this, that in its distinctive watchwords, it strikes chords which are already vibrating in the intellectual and spiritual atmosphere around us, that, addressing an age profoundly distrustful of reason in its metaphysical flights, enamoured of the methods of the positive sci-