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REVIEW SECTION.

I. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST A FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINE.

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It has been customary in the past to look upon the resurrection of Jesus as the very citadel of the Christian position. Friend and foe have been at one in so regarding it. Upon it, as his Gibraltar, the Christian man has entrenched himself. It has seemed to him to be the rock on which he could securely build the house of his faith, and upon which the rain may descend and the floods come and the winds blow without effect. Similarly it has seemed to the assailants of Christianity, that so long as this rock stood unconquered all their engineering was in vain.

It appears now that all this is a mistake. The importance of the resurrection of Christ, we are told, has been greatly exaggerated. It is not denied that from the beginning Christians have looked to it as their support and stay. It is not denied that it has been their enthusiastic conviction of its reality that has from the first enheartened them in their Christian living, and given force to their proclamation of the Gospel. Professor Harnack, for example, allows that "the firm confidence of the disciples in Jesus was rooted in the belief that He did not abide in death, but was raised by God," and that their conviction of His resurrection, because it was "the pledge of the resurrection of all believers," became "the mightiest power through which the Gospel has won humanity." But he thinks it a matter of profound indifference to us whether this conviction was sound or a delusion. "The conviction of having seen the Lord," he tells us, "was no doubt of the greatest importance for the disciples and made them evangelists; but what they saw can not immediately help us." "To believe on the ground of appearances that others have had is a frivolity which will always revenge itself through rising doubts." It can, indeed, never be neces-