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THE THEISTIC CONCEPTION OF THE WORLD.*

BY THE REV. WM. S. BLACKSTOCK.

THE book, the title of which constitutes the heading of this article, deserves to be read and studied by far greater numbers than are likely to either read or study it. The subject is important, and the treatment of it is able, but the style is adapted to the learned few rather than to the mentally undisciplined masses. Though the gifted author belongs to a democratic community, and is understood to be a democrat himself, his mode of treating the sublime theme discussed in these massive pages is by no means democratic; and, though the book which he has given to the world has many admirable qualities to commend it, it is not, in the proper etymological sense of the term, popular. Of course, this is not said to its disparagement, for it is substantially true of most books of enduring value. It is one of the most difficult achievements of genius and literary skill to produce a work which, while it commands the respectful attention of the educated and thoughtful, brings the truth which it discusses within the easy comprehension of the uneducated mind, and in the treatment of such profound and difficult subjects as that which is treated in this volume, it is an achievement which, probably, scarcely comes within the bounds of possibility.

* *The Theistic Conception of the World.* By D. F. COCKER, LL.D.