

INTRODUCTION

THE nature of man can be regarded from many points of view, and upon it much has been written, without being in any way exhaustive. It is probably true that all subdivision and classification is ultimately only a concession to finite intelligence, but one of the simplest modes of dealing with human nature is to think of it as divided into two regions—the region of the soul with its continuity of transcendental existence, and the region of the body with its physical and terrestrial ancestry. Likewise, concerning the nature of Christ, volumes have been written; and the same kind of simplifying treatment has been found useful here also. It can be regarded from the eternal and Divine point of view, being thought of as the Logos which existed before all worlds, and as such can be worked into an elaborate idealistic philosophy, with weighty and benevolent results; or it can be considered from the human point of view, and dealt with as belonging to a being born upon this planet, subject to the difficulties attendant upon partial knowledge and growing powers, and living a life as troubled and as strenuous as any other of the sons of men.

That something of this latter treatment is necessary, is obvious to a person of any lucidity who contemplates the development of a human being from earliest infancy.

Writers of all ages have emphasised one or other of these aspects, and they are both conspicuous in the New Testament itself. The one treatment is found especially in the fourth Gospel and in the Epistles of Paul, the other treatment chiefly in the other three Gospels.

Emphasis on the humanity is no novelty, and is per-