

human mind, even in its lowest stages." Another learned writer, an eminent historian, member of Parliament, Professor in the Berlin University, and formerly a Freethinker, has said, "I think that in man the consciousness of God is altogether indestructible; and I believe that science will eventually strengthen and purify this consciousness." "The question whether there exists a Creator and Ruler of the Universe," says Darwin, "has been answered in the affirmative by the highest intellects that have ever lived." "God and the soul," says another distinguished authority, "have at all times been the ultimate aim of all knowledge." Cousin places the existence of God among first truths.

Intimately associated with this God-consciousness, which may fairly be said to be a phenomenon of universal humanity, is the demand of the common intelligence of the race for some reasonable explanation of the origin of the universe around us, and of which we form a part. The natural, unrestrained operation of our rational faculties in surveying the innumerable marks of intelligent design presented by the vast and splendid fabric of the visible world, leads to the irresistible conclusion of a mighty mind as the only explanation of the evidences of plan which distinguishes that fabric all through its far-reaching and magnificent domains. Such an originating Cause, outside and independent of the whole order and system of things which makes up the universe, appears to be the logical demand of the great, fundamental or intuitive perceptions of that mental constitution which is man's crown of loyalty, his rich inheritance and his boon. Even John Stuart Mill, after rejecting every other argument for the existence of God, admits that the argument from design in the universe is irresistible, and that "Nature does testify of its Maker." "Reason demands a first cause," says another writer, "not as a mere STARTING-POINT, but as an EXPLANATION."

But the idea or conviction respecting the existence of the unseen power and intelligence, does not, in itself alone, satisfy the requirements of the human mind; the past has been marked by a vast and unremitting search to know God and find out the Almighty to perfection. The desire for some visible manifesta-