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## OUTLINES OF THE HISTORY OF DOGMA.

### PROLEGOMENA TO THE DISCIPLINE.

#### I.—IDEA AND AIM OF THE HISTORY OF DOGMA.

1. RELIGION is a practical affair with mankind, since it has to do with our highest happiness and with those *faculties* which pertain to a holy life. But in every religion these faculties are closely connected with some definite *faith* or with some definite *cult*, which are referred back to Divine *Revelation*. Christianity is that religion in which the impulse and power to a blessed and holy life is bound up with faith in God as the Father of Jesus Christ. So far as this God is believed to be the omnipotent Lord of heaven and earth, the Christian religion includes a particular *knowledge* of God, of the world and of the purpose of created things; so far, however, as this religion teaches that God can be truly known only in Jesus Christ, it is inseparable from historical knowledge.

Religion.

2. The inclination to formulate the content of religion in *Articles of Faith* is as natural to Christianity as the effort to *verify* these articles with reference to science and to history. On the other

Articles of  
Faith.