

and Professor Harnack have familiarized students of church history with this fact. For example, the form taken by the Christian creed in the first formative period of Christian doctrine was largely due to the fact that it was moulded by men of the Greek mind and education. In like manner theologians recognized the fact that the great contribution made by the Apostle Paul to Christian theology owes much of its form to the Rabbinical training of the Apostle.

It is obvious that the "cast-iron" theory of the Christian creed utterly breaks down in the light of the facts. Christian theology to-day is reshaping itself under the influence of its modern environment of science and criticism. The process is actually under way in every communion, and the protest of some Ontario bishops against a scientific statement in an Ontario school text book was as futile as the sounding brass and clanging cymbals of Dr. Torrey, when he summons all the world to see him demolish the Higher Criticism. The Ontario text book is not changed and the Higher Criticism remains undisturbed.

Liberal theologians, then, distinguish between the essence and the form of the Christian faith. Every one would, I suppose, admit that there is some element of adoration common to the Roman Catholic, prostrate before the altar, and the Hornerite with his groans and shouts. Yet how vastly different are the forms under which they apprehend the same eternal God! I once heard an eloquent preacher use the following striking metaphor in illustration of this point. The light, he said, coming through a stained glass window is truly light, but it falls upon the floor as red, or blue, or yellow, according to the colour of the medium through which it passes. Just so with Christian doctrine: it is never complete, never perfect, it comes through minds of various capacities, the medium is coloured, but on the whole it finds in every age such expression as is suited to its environment.

Liberal theologians, therefore, do not despise or assail dogma *per se*. Dogma (meaning thereby, logically deter-