

THE THEOLOGUE.

VOL. VI.—APRIL, 1895.—No. 5.

Presbyterian College, Halifax.

A DARWINIAN'S THOUGHTS ON RELIGION.*

SOME seven or eight years ago Mr. George J. Romanes began to deliver in the University of Edinburgh the Rosebery lectures on "Evolution." At that time he was regarded as the ablest living exponent of Darwinism, and indeed was looked upon as Darwin's legitimate successor. A man of fine presence, genial manner, and a lecturer of consummate skill, he filled the large Natural History class-room, steep as were its benches and dingy, with attentive audiences. This was before the days of "Gifford," when Theology dwelt at peace in her Zion, undisturbed by Pfleiderer *et hoc genus omne*. But at that time too there were whispers of heresy, and highlander would glance savagely at lowland arts man of strictest sect, when Romanes made a point of showing how evolution interfered with the argument from design, or walking up to the skeleton of an ape, professed with a bland smile to have no objections to acknowledge him as his ancestor. Romanes was said to be atheist, materialist, what not; not without reason as we shall see, though it may probably have originated then from those who had decided for themselves that

*THOUGHTS ON RELIGION, by the late Geo. John Romanes, M. A., LL. D., F. R. S. Edited by Charles Gore, M. A., Canon of Westminster. London: Longmans Green & Co., 1895, 4s.