

# THE THEOLOGUE.

---

VOL. X.—DECEMBER, 1898.—No. 2.

---

## Presbyterian College, Halifax.

---

*“THE POTTER’S WHEEL.”*

---

BY THE REV. D. J. FRASER, M. A., B. D., OF ST. STEPHEN’S  
CHURCH, ST. JOHN, N. B.

---

IF we have ever seen the potter at his wheel, moulding a rude lump of clay into an ornamental or useful vessel, we cannot wonder that this striking handicraft should have yielded to literature, both ancient and modern, many an illustration. As we watch the ease with which the clay responds to every touch of the potter’s hand, takes on a succession of symmetrical shapes, changes from a shapeless mass into a vessel of intelligent design, we almost fancy that it is instinct with the life and thought of the maker. No art is more beautiful or more suggestive, and in very early times the relation between the potter and the clay was felt to be a fitting illustration of the relation between God and man.

The figure of the potter’s wheel as an illustration of human life originated in the East, and we can easily understand how it would appeal to the Oriental mind with subtle force, for fatalism finds its native soil in the East. There, man is thought of as mere plastic clay in the hands of the potter, and God as the absolutely sovereign arbiter of human destiny. This is not to the same extent the thought of the Western world. With us life