

"The depth and dream of my desire,  
The bitter paths wherein I stray,  
Thou knowest who has made the fire,  
Thou knowest who has made the clay.

"One stone the more swings to her place,  
In that dread temple of Thy worth,  
It is enough that through Thy grace  
I saw naught common in Thy earth."

These examples suffice to show that running through even his earlier work is a vein of genuine religious feeling.

#### II.—KIPLING'S APOLOGETIC.

Mr. Kipling's religion is not new, and it is very simple. Like his heroes, and like the words in which he presents his heroes to us, his religion is of a quite primal nature. As we should naturally expect in a poet, his religion is of the intuitive sort. It is not brought before the bar of reason either for defence or for explanation. That is only another way of saying that his religion is not formulated into a theology. Its basis is not reason but feeling. Only once, I think, do we come upon a passage where there is a slight suggestion of defence. It is his quaint argument for the existence of God in "The Conversion of Aurelian McGoggin." It is the argument of an intensely practical man—a thoroughly work-a-day theory; but it has perhaps as good a right to a place in the text books on Apologetics in our Divinity schools, as the standard (so called) "proofs." Of course, there is no final proof of the existence of the Deity. Men first believe in God, and then seek to give expression to their belief, to give a reason for the hope that is in them. But the belief, the hope, comes always before the argument. And Kipling's argument, half-ironical as it is, is not altogether unworthy of serious consideration. It has at least the advantage of being popular. The laity will take it in as easily as they do Paley's famous argument from the watch to its Designer.

McGoggin was a civilian sent out to India by the Government. He had read the books of Comte, Spencer and Clifford, books, Kipling says, which deal with peoples' insides from the point of view of men who have no stomachs: and they