

II

THE ANCESTRY OF CHRIST

The Prophets and Christ—Christ the Revealer of God—The Two Genealogies.

WHAT one first notices in the Gospels is the fact that these writers did not look upon our Lord's life as beginning at birth and ending at death, but as eternal, both in time and space, so that before all worlds He was there, and without Him no star or system of stars could have come into being. This was what they thought, not about some distant and secluded saint, but about an intimate personal Companion, with whose voice they were familiar; to whom, with their own hands, they furnished daily food; whose every habit had been disclosed to them. These witnesses, some of them fishermen, one a doctor, another a Pharisee, another a tax-gatherer, agreed that Jesus was one with the Creator, and that whatever multi-myriads of living creatures inhabited worlds unknown, all of them—good or bad—were as it were tested by their attitude to the Man of Nazareth. It was as if the biographers of George Washington had begun their story, not with his birth at Bridges Creek, in Virginia, but with the creation of the Rocky Mountains and the first thunders of