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SCIENCE THE ALLY OF RELIGION.

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The substance of an Address at the Jubilee Conference of the Evangelical Alliance,
Mildmay Park, London, July 1, 1896.

If revelation is the thought, and nature the work of the same Almighty and All-wise Creator, we may be sure that they are in harmony, and that when we find students of the Bible and students of science ranged in opposition to each other there must be mistake somewhere. Believing that Nature and the Bible are one in origin, I propose to notice a few points in which they are unnecessarily placed in antagonism to each other.

The sciences that relate to the natural history of animals, plants, and minerals, and to the structure and changes of the earth itself, are, in their simplest or most elementary forms, concerned with facts relating to material things or phenomena, with their proximate or secondary causes, and with the grouping of such facts and causes under general expressions which we term natural laws. In all this, while they may have much to do with mental culture, and with our material interests and prosperity, they have no direct relation to our religious beliefs or hopes. There is, however, a tendency in connexion with the present division of every science into specialties, and with the efforts to teach the rudiments of certain sciences to young people, to descend to a low materialistic level, which, while making science itself less attractive, may make it, at least, a deterrent from faith in higher things, in the same way that an exclusive devotion to any other worldly pursuit tends in this direction.

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