

to the character of the Christian Founder. There is, indeed, nothing more wonderful in the history of the human race than the way in which that ideal has traversed the lapse of ages, acquiring new strength and beauty with each advance of civilization, and infusing its beneficent influence into every sphere of thought and action."

No ; the Christianity of the Bible is no hindrance to humanity or human progress ; it is the intensely opposite of a hindrance ; it is a mighty power, the mightiest of all powers, for purifying and humanizing and civilizing, as well as for preparing for the blessedness of an immortal life in heaven.

In view of these considerations, if Christianity were not true, a lover of his race might well regret with all his heart that it is not true ; but a candid, intelligent examination of its evidences satisfies most enquirers that Christianity is true. If any of you think at present that these evidences do not demonstrate its truth, let it be remembered that many learned men and good men have thought, and still think, the demonstration ample. But what if the evidences amount to a greater or less degree of probability only ? Do not throw away your faith on that account. There is no young man or woman, no man or woman young or old, who does not believe, and