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*Christianity and the World-Crisis.

[By John T. McNeill, M. A., B. D.]

NOTE:—We think it well this month to make the proportionate arrangement of our literary matter secondary to the publication unabridged of Mr. McNeill's treatise. We believe this course will commend itself to our readers because of the paramount interest of the subject.—[Editor.]

I.

Importance and Significance of the Present Crisis.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the present world-crisis. In all human records there is nothing comparable to it. All the crises, all the convulsions which have fallen within the experience of man in his recorded life on this planet present no parallel. Humanity is not only passing a mile-stone; it is striking out into a new road. Whatever the future may be it cannot be a repetition of the past. We are privileged to witness the beginning of a new era. We may differ in our conjectures as to what the new era will be; your expectations and even your hopes of it may be quite unlike mine. But I believe earnest reflection on what is going on in the world today will convince every type of mind that the life of the world is passing through a profound change, and entering upon a new age, from which there can be no reversion to what has gone before. That which hath been is not that which shall be.

Briefly, the significance of this transformation, insofar as its significance is yet evident, consists in the fact that the *human race is, for the first time, arriving at a consciousness of its organic unity.*

The New World-consciousness.

Even without the calamity of a world-war, the amazing achievements of Science would sooner or later have made us aware of this. It was foreseen indeed by a few gifted souls early in the Scientific Era. It is about three-quarters of a century since Tennyson wrote confidently

*Subject of Opening Lecture of Westminster Hall Session 1915.