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THE ORIGIN AND EARLY GROWTH OF HEBREW PROPHECY*.

ANYONE who comes under the influence of the idea of development soon discovers that the finished products of nature or the human spirit can be understood only in the light of their whole history. The great man now making history and creating the influences which mould the youth of a nation was once a boy himself, played upon by the moral and intellectual influences of his time, and can be thoroughly understood, if he ever can be understood, only when we follow him from the cradle upwards. And so the biographer of recent years, while allowing for the free play of his hero's individuality, has been careful to trace his ancestral history and set forth the discipline of home and school and university which gave shape to his early life.

It need not surprise anyone, then, that the student of Hebrew Prophecy should soon feel the need of a more or less thorough knowledge of its origin and early character. Such a perfect piece of ethical writing as the prophecies of Amos, the first writing prophet, must have been preceded by centuries of moral and literary preparation.

Moreover when we do make our way back to the infancy and boyhood of the great man, we are not at all surprised to find intellectual vagaries and moral weaknesses which his manhood has outgrown. So we should not be surprised, when we read the early

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