

THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE.

it will understand revelation not as a mystery but as a scientific fact. It will then find that revelation and reason are not antagonistic. The trouble with the clergy is that they want to retain their old beliefs in the precise form in which they always held them, and they consider as the greatest strength of these beliefs their isolation from the rest of our beliefs, and their peculiar supernatural origin. The revelation contained in the Bible, they think, will lose all its prestige and authority over men unless it is held to be a communication direct from God, different not simply in degree, but absolutely different in kind from all other communications. The divinity of Christ would lose its most valuable significance if it were not rigidly kept apart from the divine spirit indwelling in the rest of mankind. The clergy are clinging to the above line of argument for their lives, but the thinking portion of mankind is fast losing faith in that part of church teaching which describes events antithetical to the laws of nature, and giving its assent to that portion which describes events in agreement with the order of nature. As our knowledge of history widens we find that other races and other religions claim to be infallible, other miracles ask to be arranged alongside of ours. The Roman Catholic church says they are being performed at the present time, and that they have never ceased. The power rests in the church and the saints. Their Protestant brethren say that Christ's miracles are a proof of his divinity, and that they ceased