

phy of history as to seize the principle of the relation between the two things and to state it so clearly.

In a certain sense we may say that this diversity of languages was brought about by the direct intervention of God for the very purpose of defeating man's mistaken ambition, as represented in the Genesis story. Whatever effect the one had on the other was certainly by the divine intention, without which nothing whatever comes to pass. But, however closely the two things were connected in the divine purpose, it is wholly gratuitous to conclude that the sacred writer meant to represent the confusion of tongues which brought the work to a stop as either miraculous or sudden. The apparent suggestion of suddenness arises wholly from the condensed and dramatic form into which the story is thrown. In the absence of definite details we can only conjecture, of course, what the actual progress of events was. But if we may judge from the way in which similar enterprises have usually been carried out in the east it would be something like this. When once the scheme had been determined on and plans arranged, instead of engaging a regular staff of workmen, skilled and unskilled, to be paid out of the public treasury, a call would be made for levies of forced labor to carry out the work. All would be expected to bear in this way a share of the burden. Naturally, the earliest levies would be made on those nearest at hand. As long as they continued, all would go well, for these had not been geographically far separated from each other, and if slight dialectical differences had arisen at all, they would still be mutually intelligible. But as the work progressed, it would be necessary to go further and further afield, until they drew from the outer fringes of the world's population in opposite directions. The moment these came together their differences would create confusion. Being unintelligible to each other, mutual suspicions and jealousies would spring up from the merest trifles. Any weakness or want of resource in the executive when brought face to face with this new problem would certainly wreck an enterprise, about which, pro-