

through the ages, present an aggregation of facts so palpable and imposing as to demonstrate in the most convincing manner the statement that, "Religion is the first power on the face of the earth." "The effects of religion," says J. Stuart Mill, in his "Three Essays on Religion," "has been immense in giving direction to public opinion, which has in many most important respects been wholly determined by it." Even such a radical Free thinker as Fichte has been compelled to acknowledge that, "We and our whole age are rooted in the soil of Christianity, and have sprung from it; it has exercised its influence in the most wonderful ways on the whole of our culture, and we should be absolutely nothing of all that we are if this mighty principle had not preceded us." "Religion," says another writer, "is before all systems of belief—the former is the creator of the latter." In an address delivered by the Rector of the University of Halle, on the "Influence of Religion on Science," we find the following remark: "In the religious feeling and convictions lies the mightiest impulse to rise above the merely phenomenal world to its source and essence, and above the region of observation and time and space, to the invisible, the spiritual and the eternal."

When we remember the part played through the centuries by the great historic faiths, we cannot fail to recognize the almost invincible and immeasurable power of that religious sentiment which lies at the foundation of all the beliefs of mankind, and which, in fact, has been the main factor in their origination and continued stay. It is also worthy of note that the religious principle is older than philosophy, and strikes its roots deeper in the human soul, and the varied efforts to banish it have only shown how deeply seated it is in the mind and heart and needs of man.

Speaking of the importance of Religion generally, without discriminating between the different existing faiths, Miss Frances Power Cobbe, in a recent article in the *Contemporary Review*, entitled "A Faithless World," says that "the religious problem is altogether unique, because it has to deal with the whole of human nature—with intellect, conscience and heart—and it is quite unmatched by anything that science, art, politics, com-