

mythology and abject superstition; and while Islam in its almost fatalistic monotheism represents the extremest theocracy, Christianity unites the two opposite doctrines of transcendency and immanency by its ethical conception of the Fatherhood of God, which embraces both the exaltation of God above man, and man's relationship to God. Christianity is the most many sided of all religions and families of religion, and it thus possesses an adaptability, or elasticity as it has been called, which explains its great wealth and variety of forms. In more than one respect, and more than any other creed, it is the religion of reconciliation; and in this sense also that it combines those apparently irreconcilable elements of religious life which are separately represented and simply developed in other religions and in other periods of greater or less duration. . . . From the purely scientific and impartial point of view, and as the result of historic and philosophic investigation, I maintain that the appearance of Christianity inaugurated an entirely new epoch in the development of religion; that all the streams of the religious life of man, once separate, unite in it, and that religious development will henceforth consist in an ever higher realization of the principles of that religion."

Evolution, properly understood, does not imply the necessity of continuous and unending development in one line. No law of evolution compels us to suppose that greater sculptors than those of ancient Greece, or that greater dramatists than Shakespeare will arise. There are in the development of animals and men what may be called terminal buds. There is no necessity therefore to suppose that any greater or more fertile founder of a religion will arise than Jesus. There is nothing in any principles of evolution that forbids us to subscribe to St. John's declaration, that "He was the true Light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world," or that compels us to deny that His glory "was as the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." The Saviour was as it were the terminal bud of the long religious development of the Hebrew people. The