

# THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

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## REVIEW SECTION.

### I.—A SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF CHRISTIANITY.

#### PART I.—REVELATION.

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MAN is a religious being. Man is endowed with a sense of relation to God. There is no race of men without some religious faith, some form of worship and some hope of a future life. These things are the evidences of a religious nature and the elements of a religious life.

The normal development of a religious nature, according to all the laws of life and growth with which we are familiar, must proceed by means of correspondence with a correlated and an appropriate environment. The highest development of a religious nature, according to the laws of evolution, must be the result of normal correspondence with an appropriate and a true environment. The truest religion, therefore, must be that religion which establishes the most complete correspondence between man and God, and which produces the normal development of man in that direction which tends to the perfection of moral character and to the attainment of the highest possible moral good to the individual man, and to human society.

There is a religion Oriental in its origin but prevailing in the Western world and spreading now in all lands which claims to be the absolutely true religion. This religion has proven its adaptability to so many races, has produced such great changes in the character and the conduct of individual men, has, in many places, so purified and elevated society and so affected for the better the spirit of the world that it is, above all other religions, worthy of scientific study. This religion is Christianity. The origin of Christianity, so far as that origin is embodied in the character and life of Jesus its Author, and recorded in the books of the New Testament must, of course, be studied, primarily, according to literary and historic methods of criticism. As Mr. Huxley has said: "The question as to what Jesus really said and did is a strictly scientific problem which is capable of solution by