

THE RELIGION OF EVOLUTION

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The religion of evolution by M. J. Savage

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M. J. SAVAGE

**THE RELIGION
OF EVOLUTION**

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RELIGION OF EVOLUTION.

BY
M. J. SAVAGE,
AUTHOR OF "CHRISTIANITY THE SCIENCE OF MANHOOD."

BOSTON
GEO. H. ELLIS, 147 FRANKLIN STREET

1877

TO

THE CHURCH OF THE UNITY;

WILLING TO BEAR THE PAIN OF THOUGHT, BRAVE ENOUGH
TO HEAR WHAT IS NEW, AND HAVING FAITH
THAT GOD WILL LEAD THE FREE
AND THE EARNEST TO
HIMSELF,

THIS BOOK IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED.



PREFACE.

IN some form the theory of evolution is now accepted by nearly all the leading scientific and philosophic students of the world. It is rapidly giving its own shape to the thought of civilization. Science, art, human life, religion, and reform are becoming its disciples; and their tendencies in the near future must be largely determined by it.

Workers in many departments of thought have already reshaped their teachings into accordance with its principles; but so far as I know, in this country, no book has been devoted to a discussion of its effect upon religion.

This volume makes no claim to completeness. It is only an essay in answer to the question, "If evolution is true, what have we left in the way of religion?" Some scientists affirm, and some frightened religionists exclaim, that evolution is essentially atheistic and irreligious; and that, if it is true, we have

left no religion at all. The writer believes that it is the business of both science and religion to seek first and always for the *truth*; for the truth only leads to God. He further believes that it is waste of time to seek to reconcile assumed truths. Truths are already at one, and need no reconciliation. Find and apply truth, then : the result is God's.

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"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

PACER.

"Let knowledge grow from more to more,
But more of reverence in us dwell;
That mind and soul, ascending well,
May make one music at life's close,
But wiser."

TENNISON.

The truth-seeker is the only God-seeker.

The curse of both religion and science, in all ages, has been the thought that there was somewhere an ultimate,—a place to stop. Here we are, finite minds in the midst of infinity. And, for the finite that is moving toward infinity, there is nowhere a place to anchor, but only the privilege and the opportunity of endless exploration.

Beneath all the various, wide-spread, and disconnected labors, discoveries, and experiments of the great body of scientific workers, there is the common belief that all scientific truth is one; that the universe is all of one piece; that distant truths are only different parts of one divine pattern that runs all through the whole visible garment of God. This scientific faith is grander than any that the religious world has yet attained. But we must come to this. Religious truth is one, as God is one. Go forth, then, ye religious explorers, and seek only for truth; knowing that all truth-seekers are brothers, and must come to hand-clapping and looks of recognition by and by!

5.

"I apprehend that there is but one way of putting an end to our present dissensions; and that is, not the triumph of any existing system over all others, but the acquisition of something better than the best we now have."

CLANNING.