

MANUAL OF NATURAL THEOLOGY

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Manual of Natural Theology by George Park Fisher

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GEORGE PARK FISHER

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THEOLOGY**

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MANUAL OF
NATURAL THEOLOGY

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PREFACE

WHEN I wrote the little volume entitled "Manual of Christian Evidences," I intended, in case it should prove to be acceptable and useful, to prepare a preliminary volume of a like character and compass on Natural Theology. The present book has been written to carry out that purpose. It is designed, like its predecessor, for readers and pupils who have not time for the study of more extended treatises.* It is unavoidable that the subject of Natural Theology should call for a somewhat more severe exercise of attention and reflection on their part than was necessary in connection with the former book. But I have tried to make the discussion as plain as is consistent with thoroughness.

The necessities of man which Natural Religion

* A more full and elaborate discussion I have presented in "The Grounds of Theistic and Christian Belief" (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1883).

Edwards v. June 1438

fails to meet, and which constitute the ground of the need of Revelation, are pointed out in the "Manual of Christian Evidences," Chapter III.

Modern views of Evolution of necessity modify the method of dealing with the evidences of Theism. But the new scientific doctrine, so far as it can be said to have established itself in the creed of Naturalists of highest repute, has the effect, I am persuaded, to fortify rather than to weaken the argument of design.

G. P. F.

NEW HAVEN, January 12, 1893.

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