

**RELIGIONS OF THE PAST
AND THE RELIGION OF
THE FUTURE**

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Religions of the Past and the Religion of the Future by Anonymous

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**RELIGIONS OF THE PAST
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The Religion of the Future

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By

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Preface

THE aim of Buckle's great work, *The Introduction to the History of Civilisation in England*, was to get rid of empiricism, and to place the study of History on a scientific basis.

The aim of the present little work is precisely similar in regard to Religion, viz. : to urge that its study should henceforth be conducted by the method usually employed for the ascertainment of Truth in every department of systematic and orderly investigation of phenomena.

It will be noticed that in this attempt to advocate a new departure in the prosecution of the study of Religion, details have been carefully eschewed, and the attention concentrated on broad general views and the inferences therefrom arising.

Easily grasped generalisations seem best fitted to persuade, and form indeed the actual groundwork on which is based most of the knowledge possessed by the public at large.

If people believe that the Earth is a spherical

Preface

body rotating on its axis and moving round the sun, they hold that conviction not in virtue of abstruse calculations appealing to the astronomer, but by reason of logical deductions from comparatively simple facts and observations which are readily comprehended and remembered by all.

Accordingly, in this brief work, the conflicting theories and common failure of the various Religions are noted, and it is argued that a new attempt to arrive at truth is needed, and that this fresh endeavour should be based on that sound foundation of painstaking accumulation of information and logical inference of general principles from the study of empirical observations which has led to success in other fields of enquiry.

If this aim could be achieved, and the Baconian method be made to supersede the dogmatism characteristic of the Religions of the Past, there seems no reason to doubt that a new era in Religion would commence, and eventually progress be made no less astounding than that which has marked the many different branches of scientific research.

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Part I
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