

THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF EVOLUTION

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The Religious Aspect of Evolution by James McCosh

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JAMES MCCOSH

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THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT
OF
EVOLUTION

BY

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"PSYCHOLOGY—THE COGNITIVE POWERS"; "PSYCHOLOGY—THE MOTIVE
POWERS"; "FIRST AND FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS"; "TESTS
OF VARIOUS KINDS OF TRUTH."

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PREFATORY NOTE TO SECOND EDITION.

THIS work was first published as one of the Bedell Lectures, founded by the Rev. Dr. Bedell, Bishop of Ohio, and Mrs. Bedell. In issuing this second edition in a somewhat different form, I have inserted a chapter on "Final Cause," and used materials from Dr. A. R. Wallace's recently published work on "Darwinism."



PREFACE.

IN my first published work, "The Method of Divine Government," I sought to unfold the plan by which God governs the world, and I found it to be in an orderly manner—that is, by law. As having pursued this line of research, I was prepared to believe that there might be the like method in the organic kingdoms, and to listen to Darwin when he showed that there was a regular instrumentality in the descent of plants and animals. I noticed that he and others, such as Lewes, Huxley, and Spencer, who took the same view, were not swayed by any religious considerations, and that religious people generally were strongly prepossessed against the new doctrine. But I saw, at the same time, that Darwin was a most careful observer, that he published many important facts, that there was great truth in the theory, and that there was nothing atheistic in it if properly understood—that is, in the ac-