

**RELIGION AND SCIENCE:  
SOME SUGGESTIONS  
FOR THE STUDY OF THE  
RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM**

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Religion and science: some suggestions for the study of the relations between them by P. N. Waggett

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# RELIGION AND SCIENCE

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR THE STUDY OF  
THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM

BY

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ΠΙΣΤΕΙ ΝΟΟΥΜΕΝ  
ΚΑΤΗΡΤΙΣΘΑΙ ΤΟΥΣ  
ΑΙΩΝΑΣ ΡΗΜΑΤΙ  
ΘΕΟΥ

## PREFACE

I HOPE that the judicious readers of this book will say that it raises more questions than it settles. It is very difficult to know anything of Natural Science; very difficult to know anything of true Religion; most difficult to express one's sense of the relation between these two things, and not less difficult as they both grow to be matters of vital and constant interest. I have very few answers to give on the subject I have ventured to touch; would rather, by much, put new questions to such readers as I gain. In particular, I am convinced that the teachers of the nation and members of the clergy are quite ready to examine, and, if possible, to accept, the lessons of Natural Science and of Modern Thought; and that no harm would be done if the suggestion got abroad that scientific doctrine is complicated and hard to master; that different parts of it vary much in the scale of certainty; and that the bearing of it all upon religious faith and practice needs a much more critical examination than it has yet received, before it is made the occasion of 'recon-

structions' or new statements of the doctrine drawn from Divine Revelation.

There are some who, in presence of the attacks of Naturalist-Agnosticism, are anxious to show just how much of that which is supposed to be essential to faith is really external to it if not actually alien from it.

Such a work may be very necessary; but one may doubt the wisdom of undertaking it in a moment or in a mood of anxiety. At such a time the enterprise will engage the energies of many very earnest Christians who, by the way, will differ widely among themselves about the exact extent of the matter to be dispensed with. But it will also attract the less discreet efforts of some who, under colour of lightening the ship, would cheerfully heave the passengers overboard. For we must not forget that if there are some believers who are distressed by the form of the Creed there are many more who are 'offended' by hearing it criticised; who are driven away by concessions.

Nor are we quite safe from the intrusion, at such a moment, of another class of reformers who find their opportunity to lessen faith in the very business of refuting some attacks upon it.

When these come on the scene of debate, it is as if spectators of a matron much buffeted by the wind should seize the occasion to make off with



her cloak and umbrella. These are not part of her ; but they are hers. And clothing also has its value.

There is no need for a hurry into certitudes of Modern Thought ; and it may be the fact that in past discussions danger arose not from the raising of questions but from the swift provision of answers.

If we turn from controversy to the more attractive fields of pure Natural History, and the riches which apt analogy brings thence to popular religion, we of the clergy stand in no need of special encouragement.

At any rate the pastoral use of scientific topics should be founded upon a moderately laborious research. There are few things so perilous as knowledge lightly won ; and this is particularly evident when Science in Sport is made Sermons in Earnest.

P. N. W.

WESTMINSTER, Nov. 6, 1903.



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