

TENDENCY: THE EFFECT OF TREND AND DRIFT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIFE

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Tendency: the effect of trend and drift in the development of life by James I. Vance

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JAMES I. VANCE

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DEVELOPMENT OF LIFE**

TENDENCY

By James I. Vance, D.D.

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TENDENCY

The Effect of Trend and Drift
In the Development of Life

By
JAMES I. VANCE, D. D.

"Opens wider still the portal
To the land of the immortal,
Every year :
And thinner grows the curtain
That divides us from the certain
Every year." —*Anon.*



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*This book is dedicated to the people
who think more of Life than of the
kind of clothes it wears, who feel in
the pulses of the Transitory the tides
of the Permanent, and who find in the
common task and daily round their
points of contact with the Infinite.*

Foreword

MAN is more like God than anything else in the world. The making of the future world is man's business, but man himself is, as yet, in the making; and the kind of world he is to make will depend upon the kind of man he becomes.

The value of any particular civilization or the eminence of any age of the world depends upon where it finds man in the progress of his development. No civilization can be great whose men are inferior, and no age can be illustrious whose manhood is tame.

In a magazine article, Mr. Thomas A. Edison is reported as saying: "We are only animals. We are coming out of the dog stage and getting a glimpse of our environment. We don't know, we just suspect a few things. It will take an enormous evolution of our brains to bring us anywhere."¹

There may be some truth in this statement. If so, it is the truth that was said long ago, and in a far nobler way, by him who wrote: "It is not yet made manifest what we shall be."²

It is the man that makes the age. It is the people that create the civilization. If the man be a mere animal, whose chief functions are bark

¹ *The Independent*, January 6, 1910.

² 1 John iii. 2.