

MAN AND THE UNIVERSE

11/17/128

MAN AND THE UNIVERSE

A STUDY OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE
ADVANCE IN SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE
UPON OUR UNDERSTANDING
OF CHRISTIANITY

BY

OLIVER LODGE

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NATURE'S VAST FRAME, THE WEB OF HUMAN THINGS,
BIRTH AND THE GRAVE, THAT ARE NOT AS THEY WERE.

SHELLEY

FIFTH EDITION

A. 5640

A. K. Feb 10 1904

METHUEN & CO.
36 ESSEX STREET W.C.
LONDON

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PREFACE

IF an apology is needed for the appearance of this book, as an outcome of the study of physical science, it must be found—partly in the special utterance permissible, or even necessary, after a century of discoveries which at one time seemed antagonistic to any reasonable view of Christianity,—and partly in the human right and duty to discern something of the relations between Man, Nature, and God.

Every one living in a period of religious awakening, and aware that human beings are among the effective and conscious agents in a process of evolution, is bound to do what he can towards stimulating a keener sense of the mystery and infinitude of the universe, and a wider recognition of the fact of human power and responsibility ;—power to promote a further understanding of the possibilities of existence, both here and hereafter,—power also to assist in guiding the race towards a gradually growing destiny, and responsibility for a due share in preparing the way for the coming Kingdom.

LERICI, *April* 1908

I have felt
 A Presence that disturbs me with the joy
 Of elevated thoughts ; a sense sublime
 Of something far more deeply interfused,
 Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns
 And the round ocean and the living air
 And the blue sky and in the mind of man :
 A motion and a spirit, that impels
 All thinking things, all objects of all thought,
 And rolls through all things.

WORDSWORTH

And this to fill us with regard for man,
 With apprehension of his passing worth,
 Desire to work his proper nature out,
 And ascertain his rank and final place ;
 For these things tend still upward, progress is
 The law of life, man is not Man as yet.

BROWNING

First Published . . . *October 8th, 1908*
Second Edition . . . *October 1908*
Third Edition . . . *November 1908*
Fourth Edition . . . *December 1908*
Fifth Edition . . . *January 1909*

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A great part of this book has appeared from time to time in the *Hibbert Journal*, a smaller part in the *Contemporary Review*; and the whole has been thoroughly revised and extended.

The author desires to express his gratitude to Mr. E. D. Girdlestone, of Sutton Coldfield, for the trouble he has taken over the revision of proof sheets, and for many suggestions and emendations.

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