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[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
Introduction	I
I Interaction between Science and Religion: Some Preliminary Considerations	22
II Science and Religion in the Scientific Revolution	69
III The Parallel between Scientific and Religious Reform	110
IV Divine Activity in a Mechanical Universe	158
V Science and Religion in the Enlightenment	206
VI The Fortunes and Functions of Natural Theology	261
VII Visions of the Past: Religious Belief and the Historical Sciences	307
VIII Evolutionary Theory and Religious Belief Postscript: Science and Religion in the Twentieth Century	374 438
<i>Bibliographic Essay</i>	475
<i>Sources of Quotations</i>	543
<i>Index</i>	548

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In keeping with the style of this series, references in the text to other secondary sources have been kept to a minimum. A bibliographic essay can make but partial amends. If I have misrepresented the sources on which I have drawn, the responsibility is of course entirely mine. To many friends and colleagues in the history of science I have a debt that is impossible to articulate fully. I am especially grateful to colleagues who have made detailed comments on earlier drafts: Professor Michael J. Crowe of the University of Notre Dame; Dr. Geoffrey Cantor of the University of Leeds; the editor of the series, Professor George Basalla of the University of Delaware; and my colleague at Lancaster, Dr. Roger Smith. Their encouragement and advice have been invaluable.

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