

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00068-0 - Evolution and Christianity
James Iverach
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Religion

For centuries, scripture and theology were the focus of prodigious amounts of scholarship and publishing, dominated in the English-speaking world by the work of Protestant Christians. Enlightenment philosophy and science, anthropology, ethnology and the colonial experience all brought new perspectives, lively debates and heated controversies to the study of religion and its role in the world, many of which continue to this day. This series explores the editing and interpretation of religious texts, the history of religious ideas and institutions, and not least the encounter between religion and science.

Evolution and Christianity

Faced with the theories of scientists and philosophers, perhaps most famously Charles Darwin's, late-Victorian theologians were preoccupied with the reconciliation of Christian teaching with their contemporaries' ideas. First published in 1894, this text forms part of a series introducing key areas of Christian theology for the modern audience. Dr James Iverach examines theories of the origins of both the universe and of life within it, finding in intelligence, morality, faith and ethics a unifying and clarifying force that he argues reveals the presence of God's creative process in the history of the universe. Nothing, he claims, occurs by chance, and natural selection simply expresses that the sum total of causes, both internal and external, results in the state in which only the forms of life now observable should exist. This text provides an insight into the late-Victorian philosophy of Christian Darwinism.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00068-0 - Evolution and Christianity
James Iverach
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00068-0 - Evolution and Christianity
James Iverach
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Evolution and Christianity

JAMES IVERACH



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00068-0 - Evolution and Christianity
James Iverach
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge New York Melbourne Madrid Cape Town Singapore São Paulo Delhi

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108000680

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1894
This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00068-0

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

THE
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATOR

Edited by the
REV. W. ROBERTSON NICOLL, M.A., LL.D.
Editor of "The Expositor"

DR. JAMES IVERACH'S
EVOLUTION AND CHRISTIANITY

London
HODDER AND STOUGHTON
27, PATERNOSTER ROW

—
MDCCLXIV

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-108-00068-0 - Evolution and Christianity
 James Iverach
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

The Theological Educator.

Fcap. 8vo, cloth, price 2s. 6d. each.

- A Manual of Christian Evidences.**
 By the Rev. PREBENDARY ROW, M.A., D.D.
- An Introduction to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament.**
 By the Rev. Prof. B. B. WARFIELD, D.D.
- A Hebrew Grammar.**
 By the Rev. W. H. LOWE, M.A.
- A Manual of Church History.**
 By the Rev. A. C. JENNINGS, M.A.
 Vol. I. From the First to the Tenth Century.
 Vol. II. From the Tenth to the Nineteenth Century.
- An Exposition of the Apostles' Creed.**
 By the Rev. J. E. YONGE, M.A.
- The Prayer Book.**
 By the Rev. Prof. CHARLES HOLE, B.A.
- An Introduction to the New Testament.**
 By Prof. MARCUS DODS, D.D.
- The Language of the New Testament.**
 By the Rev. W. H. SIMCOX, M.A.
- The Writers of the New Testament: Their Style and Characteristics.**
 By the same Author.
- An Introduction to the Old Testament.**
 By the Rev. C. H. H. WRIGHT, D.D.
- Outlines of Christian Doctrine.**
 By the Rev. H. C. G. MOULE, M.A.
- The Theology of the Old Testament.**
 By the Rev. Prof. W. H. BENNETT, M.A.
- The Theology of the New Testament.**
 By the Rev. Prof. W. F. ADENEY, M.A.
- Evolution and Christianity.**
 By the Rev. Prof. IVERACH, D.D.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00068-0 - Evolution and Christianity
James Iverach
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

EVOLUTION AND CHRISTIANITY

BY

JAMES IVERACH, M.A., D.D.

PROFESSOR OF APOLOGETICS AND EXEGESIS OF THE GOSPELS IN THE
FREE CHURCH COLLEGE, ABERDEEN

Author of "Is God Knowable?" "Life of St. Paul," etc.

"Things are also Thoughts, and have a reference to the
'Thought that set them there, and to the Thought that finds
them there."

London :

HODDER AND STOUGHTON

27, PATERNOSTER ROW

—
MDCCCXCIV

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I.

EVOLUTION AND BEGINNINGS.

Evolution the working hypothesis of scientific men—
 Evolution as a dogmatic faith—Truth of evolution—
 The primitive nebulosity—Spectrum analysis—Star
 systems—Professor Karl Pearson on lifeless chaotic
 mass—Chaos unthinkable—Homogeneousness—Evo-
 lution must commence somewhere—Its commence-
 ment a relative unity 1

CHAPTER II.

EVOLUTION AND LAW.

Nature is what is fixed, stated, settled—Law and hypo-
 thesis—The nebular theory—Its plausibilities and its
 difficulties—The nebular theory and evolution—It
 involves a rational system—The theistic argument—
 Continuity—Evolution a real process—“Instability
 of the homogeneous”—Multiplication of effects—
 “Is the effect more complex than the cause?”—
 Criticism of this statement 17

CHAPTER III.

NATURE AND INTELLIGIBILITY.

Additional factors—Transition from physics to chemistry—
 Chemical elements—Their character, relations, adap-
 tations, periodicity—Rational character of these rela-
 tions—Nature is intelligible, and therefore related to
 intelligence—Attempts at explanation—The chemical
 elements exist in the unity of one system 33

CONTENTS

CHAPTER IV.

THE STRIFE AGAINST PURPOSE.

Is the issue raised by evolution new or old?—Scope of evolution—Is evolution self-explanatory?—Fiske on teleology, against and for—Order and purpose—Efficient and final causes—Caprice—Spinoza on final causes—Mathematics—Purposiveness—The same facts and laws appear from the point of view of cause and of purpose—Chance or purpose 50

CHAPTER V.

EVOLUTION AND CREATION.

History of the earth—Evolution as seen in geologic eras—Continuity of the process—Succession—Advance and preparation for advance—Physics and geology—Some unsettled questions—Professor Caird on evolution from two points of view—At the beginning or at the end, which?—Is the issue arbitrary arrangement *versus* evolution?—No: creation by slow process is creation—Illustrations—Mechanics and purpose once more 69

CHAPTER VI.

ORGANIC EVOLUTION.

Statement by Professor Ray Lankester—New sets of terms used in biology—Why are there new terms?—Dr. Burdon Sanderson—Darwinism—Variation, struggle for existence, natural selection, transmission—Anthropomorphic character of the process—Malthusianism—Utilitarianism—What is natural selection?—Comparison with the process of denudation in geology by Mr. J. T. Cunningham—Darwin on the eye—Professor Huxley's reproduction of chance—Organic evolution likely true, but its factors not yet discovered 88

CONTENTS

vii

CHAPTER VII.

ORGANIC EVOLUTION (*continued*).

Biology before and after Darwin—Physical continuity of life—Laws and conditions of life—Adequacy or inadequacy of natural selection?—Inter-relations of life—Professor Geddes on anthropomorphism of the nineteenth century and of the eighteenth—Weismann—Natural selection is elimination of the unfit—Oscillation between natural selection as negative and as positive—Poulton, “that selection is examination”—Teleology run mad—Mimicry—Search after utility—Mutual benefit of species in co-operation—Illustration—Struggle for existence thus modified—Results	110
--	-----

CHAPTER VIII.

SUPER-ORGANIC EVOLUTION.

Controversy regarding heredity—Spencer and Weismann—Machinery of evolution defective—Limits of organic evolution—Man does not modify himself, but modifies his environment—Survival of the fittest explained by Huxley and by Spencer—Evolution does not account for advance—Illustration of man’s power of modifying his environment—Results	132
---	-----

CHAPTER IX.

EVOLUTION AND PSYCHOLOGY.

Human and animal intelligence—Rational self-consciousness—Habit—Feelings, emotions, appetites in rational beings and in irrational—Differences in kind and in degree—Romanes and Spencer—Can feelings make a consciousness?—The self—Genesis of self according to Romanes and Spencer—Unity of human nature—Russel Wallace’s deistic view—Creation is continuous—Results	154
--	-----

CONTENTS

CHAPTER X.

EVOLUTION AND ETHICS.

Ethics of evolution—Professor Huxley's ethical ideal— Whence derived?—Not from cosmic process, not from Greek or Roman ethics, nor from ordinary human ethics—Ethical life: what it is—Struggle for existence partial in cosmos: at its fiercest in human life—Spheres of human conduct non- moralised—Moral ideals—Moral obligation—The Christian ethical ideal—Its acknowledged supre- macy—Its character—Recognition of it—Not derived from evolution—Christian ethics both test and goal of ethical evolution	178
---	-----

CHAPTER XI.

EVOLUTION AND RELIGION.

The Christian religion—The Christian goal of life— Fellowship with God—Christian religious ideal real- ised in Jesus Christ—Immanence of God—Christ not evolved—Evolution holds for all others—The ghost theory of religion—Spencer's reconciliation of science and religion—Criticism—Worship <i>for</i> an- cestors distinguished from worship <i>of</i> ancestors— Evolved conduct and evolved belief—Universality of religion—Manifestations of religion—Correspond- ence with reality—Eternal element in religious emotion—Christianity and evolution—Analogy be- tween evolution in all spheres and the evolution of Christian life	204
---	-----