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George Gabriel Stokes

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Specialising in optics and the motion of fluids, physicist George Gabriel Stokes (1819–1903) was Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge for over fifty years, President of the Royal Society, Master of Pembroke College and the most prominent religious scientist of his age. First published in 1893, *Natural Theology* contains the text of ten lectures he gave at Edinburgh. Stokes favoured the design argument for the existence of a Christian god, arguing against Darwinism. He believed the Bible to be true, though at times metaphorical. The lectures move from substantive observations on cosmology, electricity, gravity, ocular anatomy and evolution through to *non sequiturs* regarding providential design, human exceptionalism, the supernatural, spiritual immortality, and Christ's dual materiality and divinity. Fossilising a moment of impending shift in the history of ideas, these lectures highlight an intellectual dissonance in the Victorian scientific establishment.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

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

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108053761](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108053761)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2013

This edition first published 1893  
This digitally printed version 2013

ISBN 978-1-108-05376-1 Paperback

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.

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CROWN 8VO. PRICE 3s 6d.

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# NATURAL THEOLOGY

## The Gifford Lectures

DELIVERED BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY OF  
EDINBURGH IN 1893

BY

PROF. SIR G. G. STOKES, BART.,

LONDON

ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK

1893

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