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I.

THE ADAMIC PRINCIPLE IN THEOLOGY.

THE origin of our race is Adamic; its probation and apostasy were Adamic; its guilt and depravity are Adamic; its redemption, as far as it is redeemed, is Adamic. This word *Adamic* is the italic word in our language, having more meaning and distinction than any other. Without it, human history would be an enigma, mental philosophy a puzzle, and theology but a vain logomachy. Anthropology and soteriology both turn upon it as a pivotal word.

What, then, is its import in theology—what underlying, informing, and shaping principle does it symbolize as it stands in the vocabulary of the science of religion?

To this question three typical answers have been proposed, giving three fundamental hypotheses as to the nature of the union between Adam and his posterity, and as to the nature of our participation in his guilt and depravity; and the constructive influence of these theories reaches into soteriology. One class of theologians translates the word *Adamic* by the word *parental*; another, by the word *realistic*; and the third, by the word *federal*.

I. According to parentalists, Adam sustained no other relation to his posterity than that of a father to his children; and this relation ruled the whole Edenic probation, and all the consequences of the fall, as they flowed down to the race. This is the key to all the arrangements and consequences of the covenant of works. As a race-father, Adam sinned; as children, all mankind heir his misery and the defects of his character. The Adamic principle, then, to them is precisely and definitely the law of genetic transmission.

THE NEW CHURCH HYMN-BOOK.

THE QUARTERLY notes with special pleasure the recent appearance of the church's new Hymn-Book. A short article in its pages, some years ago, seemed to inaugurate the discussion, or, at any rate, to voice a feeling which was already generally prevalent, that led later to those measures which have given us this book. It was not so much for an improved collection of hymns and tunes that it pleaded as it was for some one book, whether new or one of the old collections, which would be recognized by the entire church as her only authorized collection, and that might become the basis for that uniformity throughout the church which was so desirable, and yet which was at that time so entirely wanting. In addition, there was need for something so stable and generally accepted that there would gather about it those associations, in a healthy and helpful sentiment, which would endear the book, by long and general usage, to the hearts of the people. The church has been to a certain extent experimenting in this connection. Different collections had been, in one way and another, approved, and it was not uncommon to find in the same city as many different books used as there were different churches of our order. Some of the collections were admirable in their way, but the very number of them, with the introduction of new ones from time to time, was leading our people, in different sections, or even in different congregations in the same community, entirely away from one another. In addition, the church was consenting to competition with herself, to some extent, and losing not only the advantages and associations growing out of uniformity, but defeating her own publication interests when she had in the field her own published collection. She was also losing that advantage in economy of manufacture and sale which would be secured only by publishing large editions for wide-spread purchase and use. It now remains to be seen whether the effort now making to bind the whole church together in uniformity in this part of her worship will be successful.

The faithful members of the committee to which the duty of producing this collection was entrusted deserve all praise for their work. It was arduous and delicate, requiring great patience, no less than the finest poetical and musical taste. That they were sound in the faith, and careful to preserve the principles of the church in their expression through this praise book, goes without saying. They went about their work in a way which has commended itself almost universally, and the result is that they have produced a book which has thus far been remarkably well received.