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The Interpretation of the Character of Christ to Non-Christian Races by Canon C. H. Robinson

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We would suggest to the author to add, in a future edition, a section dealing with the prophetic endowments of Christ. He as the Supreme Prophet exhibited in perfection all prophetic gifts; and in an application to Him the theories of this book would receive, we believe, their amplest verification.

C. T. P. G.

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST
TO NON-CHRISTIAN RACES. By Canon C. H. Robinson.
(Longmans). 3s. 6d. net.

How much we Christians have learned in the course of our efforts to evangelize the non-Christian nations! Carey, or Marshman, or even Henry Martyn would be amazed if they could come to life and read this book by the editor of *East and West*. It is not only that a wonderful newly-won depth of knowledge of many systems of religion is revealed right through it, but everywhere is also shown a truly sympathetic insight into their ideals and aspirations. At first perhaps those missionary heroes of the past would be almost shocked at Canon Robinson's large-hearted charity, as though it were somewhat of a surrender of the exclusive claims of the Christian Faith, but presently one feels sure they would recognize and thank God for the real Christ-spirit which breathes throughout it.

It is a small book of less than two hundred pages, divided into nine chapters. The first is a general introduction. Then follow four chapters in which the ideals of four of the great religions of the world are discussed, namely of Hinduism, of Buddhism, of Confucianism and of Islam. The next three chapters discuss certain objections or doubts as to mission work in a broad philosophical manner. The last chapter is an extremely interesting but perhaps hardly relevant discussion of "Christian Missions and the Interpretation of Natural Beauty."

As to the book as a whole, it is not too much to say that we have never read anything on the relation of Christianity to other religious systems to inspiring and so convincing. It is altogether admirable. Those who wish to have their ideas exalted and purified, those who are doubtful about mission work, those who are not in sympathy with it, but still are open to conviction in any degree, ought by all means to read it. Oh, that its spirit could be carried into all our Christian publications everywhere! It was most natural that the grand old pioneers of mission work should suppose that an exposure of the evil things in the ethnic religions would force men to seek a purer faith, but we have learned that bitterness rather than conviction has resulted from the tracts in which this was sought to be done. Let us cease to circulate such booklets as *Hindudharmprasiddhikaran*, *Shiopariksha*, and *Krishnapariksha* in India. Let the truly Christian spirit of Canon Robinson's book pervade all our efforts, our preaching and our writing.

A. E. J.