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# THE SACRED ANTHOLOGY

A BOOK OF ETHNICAL SCRIPTURES.

BY MONCURE DANIEL CONWAY.

Trübner & Co., Ludgate Hill.

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The second edition of this work contains an Index of Authors, in addition to the Index of Subjects, List of Authorities, &c., and the Chronological Notes have been carefully revised. The book contains 740 Readings from the Asiatic and Scandinavian Sacred Books and Classics, arranged according to subjects in 480 pages royal 8vo, with marginal notes.

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

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The book may fairly be described as a bible of humanity, and as an ethical text book it might well be adopted in all schools and families where an attempt is made to instil the highest principles of morality apart from religious dogma. He has produced a work which a great number of people have long been desiring to possess, and which is likely to mark a distinct epoch in the progress of ethical culture.—*Examiner*.

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The "Sacred Anthology" should find a place on every library shelf. It is a bible free from bigotry, and were an Universal Church ever established, might fairly be a lesson book for that church. The labour expended by Mr. Conway in editing, abridging, and selecting, can hardly be fairly estimated. We can heartily recommend it to Freethought Societies as a volume in which they may find readings otherwise inaccessible to them.—*National Reformer*.

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The principal authorities for the beautiful thoughts and precepts so skilfully collected by the editor, are given at the close of the volume, to make his work as complete as possible. Mr. Conway also publishes chronological notes, and it is scarcely necessary to say that his views with regard to the dates of our sacred books differ considerably from those adopted by orthodox divines.—*The Pall Mall Gazette*.

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A very slight examination of the volume will show that it is indeed a valuable anthology of the scriptures of all races. As complete and entertaining a volume as one would wish to read.—*The Bookseller*.

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It will be seen that all the sacred books of mankind have their principal features in common; that the differences between them are not of essential nature, but of degrees of manner and style, and that an inspired spirit variously modified and expressed breathes through all. Mr. M. D.

Conway has contributed a real service to an enlightened view of this subject by his "Sacred Anthology," a book which we commend to the attention of all who are accustomed to speak of the bible as the only word of God.—*The Inquirer*.

Such of our readers as may have studied a remarkable book, *India in Greece*, which appeared some twenty years ago, are well aware of the extent to which Indian rites and customs after having been transported to Greece, and thence re-exported to Italy, have become permanently imbedded in the Romish system. Indeed, we believe there is scarce a Popish notion, emblem, or ceremony that may not be distinctly traced to a Pagan source. However, if the original have come from thence, thence also may be derived an anecdote that may somewhat tend to diminish its ill effects. For among the wise Hindoo aphorisms (as rendered in Mr. Moncure Conway's recent book), we find the following, which some amongst us might ponder with advantage at the present time:—"Sányásis (?Hindu Rits) acquaint themselves with particular words and vests; they wear a brick-red garb and shaven crowns; in these they pride themselves; their heads look very pure, *but are their hearts so?*" "Religion which consists in postures of the limbs (mark this ye clergy of St. Alban's, Holborn) is just a little inferior to the exercises of the wrestler." "In the absence of inward vision boast not of oral divinity." We are not sure that Vishnu's philosophy would not compare favourably with that of Pio Nonno.—*The Rock*.

Many years ago, Philip Bailey, of "Festus," announced as forthcoming a book entitled "Poetical Divinity," the object of which was to show by quotations from the bards of all time, that they all held substantially the same creed which we presume was held by Festus himself—Pantheism *plus* Universal Restoration. This book never has appeared, but Mr Conway's is arranged on a somewhat similar plan, and is altogether a volume of such a unique yet delightfully varied character that it must commend itself to readers of every sort. We have seen already the eyes of a rather strictly orthodox person glistening with eager delight over many of the maxims and beautiful little moral fables with which it abounds.—*The Dundee Advertiser*.

It would be impossible that such a book, even if it were comparatively carelessly done, could be without interest; but Mr. Conway's task has been most conscientiously performed, and it will be found of the greatest possible value, for it casts a strong light upon many matters which are frequently in discussion.—*The Scotsman*.

Mr. Conway has conferred a signal service on the literature of Theism by publishing for the first time a comprehensive collection of some of the best passages from the ancient scriptures of different nations. A few years ago we, in the Brahma-Somaj, made an humble effort in that direction, which resulted in the issue of a small book of theistic texts now in use during service in most of our churches. Mr. Conway's excellent publication is on a far grander scale, embraces a wider variety of subjects, and extends its selection through a much larger range of scriptural writings than we could command.—*The Indian Mirror*.

There is, I suppose, no book in existence quite like it, perhaps none on the same plan and of equal scope. He who found no higher use for the book would rejoice in it as a handbook for scriptural quotations not otherwise readily accessible, as the number of volumes from which they have been brought together sufficiently proves. There is nothing we more need mentally than a tinge of Orientalism, something to give a new bent and scope to minds fed perpetually on the somewhat narrow and practical literature of the Western races. Mr. Conway, with his eager poetic instincts, his warm feeling and wide sympathies, is a good guide to those in search of what is most impressive to the imagination or stimulating to the sensibilities.—“G. W. S.,” in the *New York Tribune*.

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A SIGNIFICANT BOOK.—Significant of what? Of interest in the religious life of men who are outside the pale of Christianity, of that “sympathy of religions” which has lately found in the missionary lecture of Max Müller in Westminster Abbey an exhibition which might well strike terror into High Church dignitaries, of a growing faith that the attitude of Christianity towards the other great religions of the world is not wholly that of a teacher, but may be that of a pupil; of this, at least—we trust of much beside.—*Rev. John W. Chadwick, in the “Liberal Christian,” New York.*

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He then read a few sentences from a book called “Sacred Anthology,” which work, he said, was a compilation from the religious works of all nations, some older than our bible: the book he should leave on the desk as his bequest to the society.—*Report of an Address by A. Bronson Alcott, Esq., at the opening of a new hall in Massachusetts.*

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“The Anthology” may be obtained through any Bookseller, or from the Librarian, the Chapel, 11, South Place, Finsbury.

Price, 10s. Postage, 6d.