

CHAPTER XVIII

OUR MONISTIC RELIGION

Monism as a Connecting Link between Religion and Science—
The *Cultur-Kampf*—The Relations of Church and State—
Principles of the Monistic Religion—Its Three-fold Ideal: the
Good, the True, and the Beautiful—Contradiction between
Scientific and Christian Truth—Harmony of the Monistic
and the Christian Idea of Virtue—Opposition between Monistic
and Christian Views of Art—Modern Expansion and Enrich-
ment of Our Idea of the World—Landscape-Painting and the
Modern Enjoyment of Nature—The Beauties of Nature—This
World and Beyond—Monistic Churches

MANY distinguished scientists and philosophers of the day, who share our monistic views, consider that religion is generally played out. Their meaning is that the clear insight into the evolution of the world which the great scientific progress of the nineteenth century has afforded us will satisfy, not only the causal feeling of our reason, but even our highest emotional cravings. This view is correct in the sense that the two ideas, religion and science, would indeed blend into one if we had a perfectly clear and consecutive system of monism. However, there are but a few resolute thinkers who attain to this most pure and lofty conception of Spinoza and Goethe. Most of the educated people of our time (as distinct from the uncultured masses) remain in the conviction that religion