

Balfour's argument is this, that the reasoning of science as well as that of religion, the two comprehensive systems of modern thought, which he terms respectively the naturalistic and the theological, are based upon and produced by non-rational agencies — *i.e.*, assumptions which cannot be logically proved but which are the products of various influences, such as custom and habit, the large body of existing beliefs, be they scientific, ethical or religious (which he termed Authority), or the satisfaction which they afford to some practical want or spiritual need. This assertion leads, however, to a further reflection, that if it is by some non-rational, mechanical or unconscious process that valuable systems of thought are evolved, this is intelligible only on the further assumption that rationality or Reason must lie at the bottom, must form the ground-work of the whole scheme, although, in the actual course of events, it has only shown itself at a late stage of development.<sup>1</sup>

70.  
Points of  
contact  
with Lotze.

There are other statements of great interest and importance brought out by Mr Balfour in language at once original and convincing, which remind us of the leading ideas of Lotze's philosophy: the two realities with which the thinking mind finds itself confronted, the world of Things or the contingent on the one side,

<sup>1</sup> "We may . . . say that, unless we borrow something from Theology, a philosophy of Science is impossible. The perplexities in which we become involved if we accept the naturalistic dogma that all beliefs ultimately trace their descent to non-rational causes, have emerged again and again in the course of the preceding argument. Such a doctrine cuts down

any theory of knowledge to the root. It can end in nothing but the most impotent scepticism. Science, therefore, is, at least as much as Theology, compelled to postulate a Rational Ground or Cause of the world who made it intelligible, and us, in some faint degree, able to understand" (*loc. cit.*, p. 393).