

dependence on our surroundings, both physical and mental; and both these extensions give rise to a feeling which we may term absolute dependence.

We vaguely or clearly become conscious that we live under what we may call the pressure of our surroundings, be they physical, social, or spiritual. This experience forms the beginning of the religious sentiment. It leads us to ask two definite questions—viz., What is the nature of this feeling of pressure or obligation, and whence does it come to us?

Whoever recognises the fact of this dependence, not only in the physical but also in the social and spiritual world, has the religious sentiment in its widest sense. Whoever, in addition, possesses or seeks a definite answer to the second question, Whence this feeling of dependence comes to us, has not only the religious sentiment, but has, or desires to have, a definite religion or religious creed.

From this point of view we may say that a person may be truly religious without having a definite religious creed. This religion consists in a feeling of obligation or dependence, whilst he may intellectually find it impossible to formulate a definite creed.

### III.

The habit of obedience, which should be one of the first results of early education, introduces the human soul to the recognition of Authority.

Authority is at first limited to the command of one or a few persons, who, if necessary, can enforce their will