

CHAPTER IV

The Impact of Christianity on Non-Christian Religions

THE impact of Christianity on the non-Christian religions began nineteen centuries ago, and will not cease until the kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of the Lord and of his Christ. This impact has gathered momentum and strength throughout the centuries. Never before was it so world-wide and so strongly evident.

The definition of mechanical impact is full of significance and pregnant with illustration in considering the spiritual impact of a religion of Life, which is supernatural, on the other religions of the world. "Impact," we are told, "is the collision or shock occasioned by the meeting of two bodies, one or both being in motion." Now, it is perfectly evident that such impact is impossible unless there are two bodies. At least one of them must be in motion, and the effect of the impact will depend on the weight of the bodies, their momentum and their resisting power. The effect of the impact of two bodies may be only a rebound, as in the case of a rubber ball against a stone wall. It may result in penetration, as when a cannonball strikes a fort, or it may result in the complete disintegration of one of the two bodies, as