

PAGAN CHRISTS

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

ESSAYS TOWARDS A CRITICAL METHOD.

NEW ESSAYS TOWARDS A CRITICAL METHOD.

MONTAIGNE AND SHAKSPERE.

BUCKLE AND HIS CRITICS: a Sociological Study.

THE SAXON AND THE CELT: a Sociological Study.

MODERN HUMANISTS: Studies of Carlyle, Mill,
Emerson, Arnold, Ruskin, and Spencer, with an Epi-
logue on Social Reconstruction.

THE FALLACY OF SAVING: a Study in Economics.

THE EIGHT HOURS QUESTION: a Study in
Economics.

THE DYNAMICS OF RELIGION: an Essay in
English Culture-History. (By "M. W. Wiseman.")

A SHORT HISTORY OF FREETHOUGHT, Ancient
and Modern.

PATRIOTISM AND EMPIRE.

STUDIES IN RELIGIOUS FALLACY.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH POLITICS.

WRECKING THE EMPIRE.

CHRISTIANITY AND MYTHOLOGY.

A SHORT HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY.

LETTERS ON REASONING.

CRITICISMS. 2 vols.

ESSAYS ON ETHICS.

PAGAN CHRISTS

STUDIES IN COMPARATIVE HIEROLOGY

BY

JOHN M. ROBERTSON

[ISSUED FOR THE RATIONALIST PRESS ASSOCIATION, LIMITED]

WATTS & CO.,
17, JOHNSON'S COURT, FLEET STREET, LONDON, E.C.
1903

CONTENTS

PREAMBLE	xi
--------------------	----

PART I.

THE RATIONALE OF RELIGION

CHAP. I.—THE NATURALNESS OF ALL BELIEF.	PAGE
§ 1. Origin of Gods from fear—from love—Beloved Gods the Christs of the world's pantheon—Arbitrary Classifications	1
§ 2. All beliefs results of reasoning—Taboo—Formulas of Mr. Lang and Mr. Jevons—Primary and secondary taboo—Moral correlations—Theory of religion and magic	3
§ 3. Mr. Jevons's theories of religious evolution—Contradictions—Thesis of "superstition"	8
§ 4. Scientific view of the "religious consciousness"—idea of "the supernatural"—Fear <i>versus</i> gratitude—Rise of magic—Meaning of "religion"	8
§ 5. Mr. Frazer's definition—its inadequacy—Conflict of formulas—Antiquity of magic—Analogies of religion, magic, and science—Magic homogeneous with religion—Inconsistencies of magic—Magic in the Old Testament—Inconsistencies of later religion	11
§ 6. The scientific induction—Magic and religion interfusent—The theory of prayer—Mr. Jevons's reasoning here reduces the religious type to the Atheists and Agnostics	20-23
§ 7. Mr. Jevons's series of self-contradictions—His coincidence with Mr. Frazer in excluding belief from the concept of religion	23-28
§ 8. His contradictory doctrine of the conditions of survival in religion—Value of his work—Causes of its fallacies	28-30
§ 9. The continuity of religious phenomena—Homogeneity of all magic and religious ritual—Elijah as magician—Comparative harmfulness of priesthoods and sorcerers—The dilemma of Christian ethics—Philosophy in religion—Mr. Jevons's psychology—"Impressions" <i>versus</i> "projections"—Results of his classification—Religion "rational" even if not "reasonable".	30-36