

Tonight I was asked to say a little bit about the matter of civilization in relation to Christianity, and Miss Elliott was so kind as to lend me here~~s~~ copy of ~~the~~ the text book. I understand you are using, Western Civilization, by Burns, and the subject that she asked me to talk about is a tremendously big one, in fact in order to do justice to it at all, it would take a good many hours. ~~Well~~ All we can hope to do in a few minutes is to try to note a few high points in relation to it. I'd like to say this about any book like this on history or any science, there is the task which faces a person is a difficult one in writing a book like this. I think we must recognize that fact, because when you come to write it, you find that there are some things which are very thoroughly known to everybody, and they are facts. There is no question about it. Then there are some things which are fairly well known, and yet there is some difference of opinion, and then there are many points on which there is very little known, and it is difficult to know what the truth is about them. Well, now, when you come to write a book like this, you gather together your facts and present them, and you have to deal with a good many things on which you just don't have evidence, and when you do that you have to make guesses, and conjectures, and I think it would be fine if scientists and historians would label their guesses and conjectures, so that when we read, we say, here is a fact, a definite fact. That's what you want. You want to learn civilization. You want to know what the facts are, what has happened in the field of civilization, but there are many things about it that we don't have full evidence on, and when we come to them it is necessary to make some guesses, and when you come to make those guesses, the guesses depend a lot on your general attitude. As I say, if only those guesses could be labeled it would be very helpful, but if we can see when a person writes what the sort of guesses are he is making, and how good or how bad they are, it gives us some material on which to evaluate. Now this book here, as I have looked it over, has a history of civilization, but it has a good bit to say about religion, and what it says about religion is presented from a definite view point, the viewpoint that ~~says~~ any religion that says, use your mind, and try to live a good life is good religion. Any religion that tells you anything about God, anything about great eternal things is more or less