

pretation of the nature of God are but one possibility among many, and he respects the scientific and philosophical conception above others for its exactness, provided it be not negative and destructive, while he would sanction the poetry of religious language and ceremonies according to the needs of the devotional heart.

AN APPEAL FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

An appeal comes to our readers from the Countess Evelyn Asinelli of Geneva, Switzerland, in her attempt to arouse the interest of Americans in the deplorable condition of the Boers. Besides making many thousand orphans the war has ruined nearly every home; and England's small indemnity does not go as far as it should towards adequate relief because of mismanagement in the distribution.

Miss Emily Hobhouse verified some very painful reports she had heard by spending two months in careful investigations, visiting the northern districts so difficult of access, and the desolated villages from which no word had come since the signing of the peace. In an open letter she has told of the miserable condition of the half-starved people and their ruined homes. She said, "Sad indeed it is to see the people on farms situated often twenty, thirty, or fifty miles from any town. The man has probably tramped away to seek work for cash; the women and children sit silent at home. No word of complaint is ever heard. There is nothing to do: no clothes to make, no food to cook, no garden to till, and neither seeds nor water. They sit in a row silent."

Countess Asinelli writes us the following account of this enterprising woman's brave endeavors towards the alleviation of the pitiful state of affairs:

"Miss Hobhouse who has devoted her life to those who suffer, is a very practical woman. She understood after having lived with the ruined Boers, that one thing alone could do them a permanent good, and that was to give them the means of gaining their living. She therefore settled at Philippolis, a small town in the Orange River Colony, where with the help of two experienced teachers, she opened a large work-room; young girls from sixteen to twenty-two years are taught to spin, to weave, and to knit by machinery; we hope by and by to be able to add a fourth branch of activity, namely lacemaking, for which there is good market in South Africa. As these industries were totally unknown in the country, they have a chance of success which might be doubtful elsewhere. The progress of the whole undertaking is most encouraging.

"Unfortunately, the current expenses are very high; life is expensive over there and moreover wood being costly and very scarce, our Boers can not reproduce the looms and the spinning-wheels to the degree required for all our new pupils and for the home use of our now very able first workers. This last point is a serious hindrance, as we shall be obliged to send the necessary material from our posts, which means an increase of expense."

As yet there are only one hundred subscribers to the undertaking, and any help from new friends who may see this appeal will be welcomed by Countess Evelyn Asinelli, 8 Grand Pré, Geneva, Switzerland, and wisely administered.