

indeed; who was inspired in the highest sense; who alone combined, and taught others to combine, the good with the true, and was thus the deliverer and the saviour of those who would consent to learn from him.'

In this spirit Celsus composed his ἀληθὺς λόγος, his 'True Account,' against the Christians, in connection, apparently, from the political character of its concluding passages, with the efforts of Marcus Aurelius to suppress them. The book was powerful and popular, and it proved a real obstacle to the spread of Christianity among the educated classes. Eighty years¹ at least after its publication the Church found it necessary to reply, and Origen, the most gifted and accomplished of the Christian fathers, was selected for the task. Origen's answer decided the controversy in the Church's favour; but in the reconsideration of the theological position which has been forced upon the modern world, what Celsus had to say has become of peculiar interest to us, and I have endeavoured to reconstruct, in outline, his principal positions. His arguments lie under every disadvantage; the order is disarranged; the

¹ That is, if the opinion generally received is correct, that the Celsus who composed the ἀληθὺς λόγος was Lucian's friend. But the evidence is not entirely conclusive.