

THE TERRY LECTURES

Private Doubt, Public Dilemma

Other Volumes in the Terry Lectures Series
Available from Yale University Press

The Courage to Be Paul Tillich

Psychoanalysis and Religion Erich Fromm

Becoming Gordon W. Allport

A Common Faith John Dewey

Education at the Crossroads Jacques Maritain

Psychology and Religion Carl G. Jung

Freud and Philosophy Paul Ricoeur

Freud and the Problem of God Hans Küng

Master Control Genes in Development and Evolution Walter J. Gehring

Belief in God in an Age of Science John Polkinghorne

Israelis and the Jewish Tradition David Hartman

The Empirical Stance Bas C. van Fraassen

One World: The Ethics of Globalization Peter Singer

Exorcism and Enlightenment H. C. Erik Midelfort

Reason, Faith, and Revolution: Reflections on the God Debate

Terry Eagleton

Thinking in Circles: An Essay on Ring Composition Mary Douglas

The Religion and Science Debate: Why Does It Continue? Edited by

Harold W. Attridge

Natural Reflections: Human Cognition at the Nexus of Science and Religion

Barbara Herrnstein Smith

*Absence of Mind: The Dispelling of Inwardness from the Modern Myth of the
Self* Marilynne Robinson

Islam, Science, and the Challenge of History Ahmad Dallal

*The New Universe and the Human Future: How a Shared Cosmology Could
Transform the World* Nancy Ellen Abrams and Joel R. Primack

The Scientific Buddha: His Short and Happy Life Donald S. Lopez, Jr.

Life After Faith: The Case for Secular Humanism Philip Kitcher

Private Doubt, Public Dilemma

*Religion and Science
since Jefferson and Darwin*

KEITH THOMSON

Yale

UNIVERSITY PRESS
New Haven and London

Published with assistance from the foundation established in memory of William McKean Brown.

Copyright © 2015 by Keith Thomson.
All rights reserved.

This book may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, including illustrations, in any form (beyond that copying permitted by Sections 107 and 108 of the U.S. Copyright Law and except by reviewers for the public press), without written permission from the publishers.

Yale University Press books may be purchased in quantity for educational, business, or promotional use. For information, please e-mail sales.press@yale.edu (U.S. office) or sales@yaleup.co.uk (U.K. office).

Set in Janson Roman type by Tseng Information Systems.
Printed in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Thomson, Keith Stewart.

Private doubt, public dilemma : religion and science since Jefferson and Darwin / Keith Thomson.

pages cm. — (The Terry lectures series)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-300-20367-7 (cloth : alk. paper) 1. Religion and science. 2. Darwin, Charles, 1809-1882. 3. Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826. I. Title.

BL240.3.T485 2015

201'.65—dc23

2014040042

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

This paper meets the requirements of ANSI/NISO Z39.48-1992 (Permanence of Paper).

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

The Dwight Harrington Terry Foundation Lectures on Religion in the Light of Science and Philosophy

The deed of gift declares that “the object of this foundation is not the promotion of scientific investigation and discovery, but rather the assimilation and interpretation of that which has been or shall be hereafter discovered, and its application to human welfare, especially by the building of the truths of science and philosophy into the structure of a broadened and purified religion. The founder believes that such a religion will greatly stimulate intelligent effort for the improvement of human conditions and the advancement of the race in strength and excellence of character. To this end it is desired that a series of lectures be given by men eminent in their respective departments, on ethics, the history of civilization and religion, biblical research, all sciences and branches of knowledge which have an important bearing on the subject, all the great laws of nature, especially of evolution . . . also such interpretations of literature and sociology as are in accord with the spirit of this foundation, to the end that the Christian spirit may be nurtured in the fullest light of the world’s knowledge and that mankind may be helped to attain its highest possible welfare and happiness upon this earth.” The present work constitutes the latest volume published on this foundation.

Brethren, scholars, men of science, yours is a priestly calling.

ANDREW P. PEABODY, *The Connection between Science and Religion: An Oration Delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Harvard University*, August 28, 1845