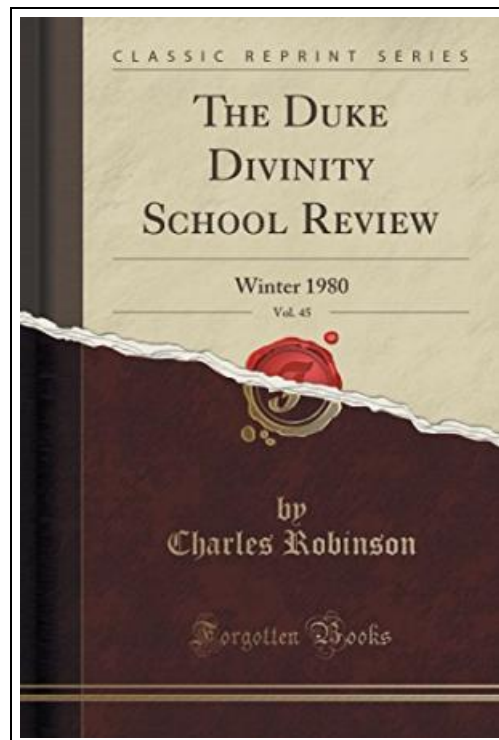


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from The Duke Divinity School Review, Vol. 45: Winter 1980 Now to return - after an over-lengthy absence, you may well think - to the doctrine of Providence. What sort of picture emerges if we apply the notion of God's power as the power of persuasion here? Clearly, it would mean abandoning for good the notion of a divine super-plan governing every detail of life and existence. persuasion leaves too much room for creaturely freedom and spontaneity for that. But does any-one really want to preserve the idea of a such a divine plan any-way? Would not the evil we can, or could if we wanted to, see so evident in our world (if not in ourselves) be overwhelming evidence against such a plan? Or else a decisive indictment against the character of God, if he did plan it all? To do away with the idea of a divine plan does not, however, mean doing away with purpose. On the contrary, the divine persuasion presupposes it. Philosophical speculation and analysis such as Whitehead and Hartshorne engage in can give some delineation of this purpose. As I have indicated, it is conceived in terms of bringing into harmony the increasingly complex elements of the cosmos engaged in the on-going creative process. Yet there is surely no reason why Christian faith could not take this framework and, in the context of the experience of the Christian community, fill it out with dynamic content. More bluntly, and biblically, God's love, love for his creation, love in which he wants his creatures to share; love not as a sentimental make-believe or some noble ideal, but love as it has been...



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