

It was found necessary, in consequence, that God should bear witness for Himself in a way above nature. Men left to themselves, instead of seeking God and finding Him, go always farther away from Him. The state of the heathen, in every quarter of the globe, demonstrates that it is impossible for the unaided mind of man to think aright of God, to know itself aright, and to be rightly moved towards God and man. Their beliefs are as varied as their natural situations. Every tribe has its own superstitions; and all, taken together, bear witness to man's incompetency to frame for himself a religion that will furnish the means of his perfect development.

God had, therefore, to break through the gloom of nature, and speak out, above all the chattering voices of heathen priests, and tell men what they needed to know and believe in order to their salvation—which just means their perfect health. To have a thoroughly healthy man, a specimen of a noble, perfect man, you require to secure that not only shall his bodily organization be well formed and symmetrical but also that his face shall beam with intelligence, and his countenance be lighted up with generous emotions. A right knowledge of God, and a right state of heart towards Him alone can secure this condition of things.

Compare a Hottentot with a Jew or a Christian, and you will see on the one hand the lowest type of human development, and on the other the highest;—and what has made them differ? The one has followed the impulses of nature, and the guidance of superstition, until they have conducted him down to his low estate—the worshipping of reptiles and other mean things; the other has been taught to look up to God and to deem himself destined to a place at the right hand of the Majesty on High, with saints and angels as his companions for ever.

The native Australian has not a thought higher than those of the beasts that perish; he is little above the brutes in anything, as his habits are more brutal than human. The food for his body he hunts for in the ground—grubs and roots, and his mind and heart seek things correspondingly base.

But God has spoken through the silence and darkness of nature; and in the Scriptures we have his utterance. His Son has revealed Him, and the Bible reveals His Son. It witnesses for Jesus, from Genesis to Revelation; but it witnesses also for everything that can elevate man's heart and enlarge his mind. If any of us are poorly