

It would be an error to say that there was no love in the world before Christ came. Parents loved their children and children their parents; acts of kindness provoked gratitude; something very much akin to love was begotten by the presence in others of admirable and excellent qualities. But disinterested love did not exist. It has been pointed out that the New Testament word for "love" was coined for the purpose. The word did not exist because the thing did not exist. It was a "love that was born within the bosom of revealed religion." There is no trace of it in "The Light of Asia." None in the religions of Greece and Rome. Even Judaism was a stranger to it, and therefore our Lord taught the parable of "the good Samaritan."

From this time forth the centre of gravity was changed. And just as long as Christians kept this law of love all went well. In spite of persecution, in spite of heathen philosophies without and error within the Church, Christianity spread, and even a Lucian said with a sneer, "Their lawgiver has persuaded them that they are all brethren."

II. It is not enough, however, to learn that one of the great teachings of Christianity is brotherliness. We must seek to discover its source.

Christ Himself is the source, He who, in the words of a German writer, "has lifted with His pierced hand empires off their hinges, turned the stream of centuries out of its channel, and still governs the ages." This dominion He has won and still holds by the power of love in the hearts of His followers.

One of the new things of this age is a philanthropy that is severed from Christ, a love manifested by men who do not believe in God nor in the God man. A dream, only a dream. To talk of a fraternity without