

Jew, he yet retained none of the local and transient features of his age and country, but rose in all things to the absolute and eternal. He suffered no contractedness from the narrowness of Nazareth, and took no hue from the dark bigotry of Jerusalem. But although his precepts came thus pure and glowing from a world of light and love, they became assimilated to the hearers, as they fell upon gross ears, and entered into benighted understandings. The Jews could not receive the truth, because they were not of the truth. They had more truth than other nations, because they had been educated in the belief and worship of one only true God, but they stained the pure liquid of heaven as they poured it into the discolored alembic of their own minds. To deny, indeed, as some would seem to do, that the ideas of the Gospel received into erring and superstitious minds would lose their large dimensions and perfect whiteness, and would be reduced down to the calibre and color of human spirits, dim and earthly and selfish, is to resist all philosophy and reject all facts. We are not repining. It was a necessary process, as men they were. Children of the dust could not at once, unless miracles had been wrought upon all their minds, grasp in their simplicity and sublimity the truths of eternity. Therefore we say, that as soon as the angel of Christianity had left the cross and the tomb of its Founder, and begun her weary journey among mortals, her aspect grew less like the heaven she had left, and more like the earth in which she wandered. Her speech of God and the soul became a dialect of Babel, instead of the song of angels. The "Glory to God in the highest" dulled away into the worship of Mammon. The "Peace on earth" was drowned in the battle-cry. And the third