

on the charge of witchcraft. It is the progress of thought that has abolished that ignorant cruelty.

One hundred years ago one of the best and most learned men of the day (he was not by any means the only one), could say to approving congregations that one of the supreme joys of the saved would be the spectacle of the tortures of the damned. We should not like to be told that to-day.

Was there no wrangling and jangling forty years ago, over surplices in the pulpit, or in the choir? Ah, dear brethren, on this last Sunday of the year, I bid you once more, Have faith in God, have faith that the world is growing better. Look forward, not backward; look upward, not downward. Do not let your zeal or your love grow cold. But with cheerfulness, with confidence, with love to God and love to man, let us take up the task which is committed to the Church of the twentieth century, the task of "transforming this modern world into a Christian Society, . . . and to gather together the scattered forces of a divided Christendom into a confederation in which organization will be of less account than fellowship with one spirit and faith in one Lord—into a Communion wide as human life, and deep as human need—into a Church which shall outshine even the golden glory of its dawn by the splendour of its eternal noon."

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