

missionaries, announcing an eternal kingdom of righteousness, welcoming slave and outcast as a brother, a brother of the Highest, offering hope and change to the degraded sinner . . . and meekly burying their dead in the sure hope of everlasting peace"—[DEAN CHURCH, *Gifts of Civilization*, p. 161].

They were Christians. Something had come to them which gave them a belief in the future—a future of goodness. The way to it was the way of honesty, purity, brotherly love. They believed that a Divine Person was with them, guiding them along it. Slowly and surely they brought to the world recovery and life, and ever since they have had followers who have preserved in the world the power of spring. If you had asked them their secret they would have told you that their newness of life was the gift of the Lord and Giver of life, the Holy Spirit of God.

We look at our own times. A century of great efforts and greater hopes is dying. It seems sometimes as if little had been done to make the world better or happier. There are disputes, discontent, poverty always darkening wealth. Is there anywhere a hope of recovery, a power of spring? This power will not be found in great political changes or in any sudden revolution; it can only come as of old from individual *men*, inspired by faith. These are still the germs of life for the coming time. They are men who whatever happens will be just, earnest, pure, honest. They believe still that a Divine Will is with them, a Divine kingdom before them. They are still the saviours of society, the men of

the future. And still, as of old, what is their secret? Ask them, and they will say that they have a newness of life given them by the Spirit of God. There is still no other power that can bring hope into disappointment, faith into failure, spring into winter, life into death. The greatest service which a man can do to his generation is to bring in this power of spring.

Let us then at this Whitsuntide, as we think of the old century that is going and the new century that is coming, pray to God that He would send His Holy Spirit to us as to the first Christians with the gift of a life ever fresh and new. It is a gift which will continually break through the crust of dull routine, of indifference, of sloth, and meet and feel the sunshine of the Love of God. It is a gift which will bring to us the continually uplifting presence of Him Who said, "I am come that ye might have life and that ye might have it more abundantly." So shall we fulfil and hasten the Kingdom of God that is ever coming. If we have within ourselves, lifting us when we fall, enlightening us when we are doubtful, cheering us when we are dull, this power of a rising life, we shall be in truth saviours of society, the salt of the earth. The Holy Spirit Who came as at this time into human nature, bringing to it the presence of Him Who is the resurrection and the life, will, if we ask Him, come to us also with the same power. Then we shall realize for ourselves and show to others that still the power of spring in human nature is the life of the risen Lord, born within us by His Holy Spirit.

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NOTHING LIKE TRYING.—Baron Longdale, when preparing for the Bar, wrote to his father, "Every one says to me 'You are certain of success in the end, only persevere,' and though I don't well understand how this is to happen, I try to believe it as much as I can, and I shall not fail to do every thing in my power." He was poor, but ended his career as Master of the Rolls.