

theories have become the basis of all our science. Unfortunately some of the learned men of our day (I do not say all,) have not such elevated minds. The knowledge of visible things will only be sound, when it is accompanied by the knowledge of the invisible God who is the author of them.

II. Is it not important to uphold energetically the right of mind in contradistinction to the extravagant and humiliating pretensions of matter? Let us defend manfully the superior attributes of man. Let us affirm that the faculties in virtue of which he is capable of knowing God, the Invisible, the Infinite, the origin and end of man, are immensely above those by virtue of which he crawls upon the earth. How paltry is humanity if deprived of communion with the Eternal God! Fallen, debased, we must say of him as did the prophets, "The crown is fallen from his head." (Lamentations v. 16.)

III. Should not reform begin in the ministry of the Word? The princes of this world seek continually to remodel their armies, improve their soldiers, their rifles, their cannons; and shall the army of Jesus Christ alone do nothing for its amelioration? Many are the changes that ought to be made in the ministry, but I shall mention only one, and that in the words of our great reformer, John Calvin. Proofs and arguments are necessary with unbelievers, but that is not sufficient. There must also be sound doctrines; and there is, besides, a right way of presenting them to the people. Calvin shows that the minister must not be satisfied with reading a sermon coldly or reciting it correctly. "True preaching," says the reformer, "must not be dead, but living and effective. There is a force, there is an energy which should be found in those who desire to be good and legal ministers of the Word. No parade of rhetoric, but the spirit of God must resound in their voice, in order to operate with power. (*D'Esprit de Dieu doit résonner en leur voix pour besogner en vertu.*) Thus spoke Calvin. Doubtless one sometimes hears such voices, but they are rare. The progress which we have to make is a revival of the ministry of the Apostles and of the Reformation. It was for the Church of England, and to the Regent of the kingdom, the uncle of Edward VII., that Calvin wrote these words in 1548, but they are applicable to every Church. May the Spirit of God resound in our voices.

IV. Ought not Christians in the times in which we live—the people and the pastors—to attach themselves more and more to the person of Jesus Christ? We must do so in order to contend against infidelity, and still more against Popery. Let us therefore cleave with a living faith, with earnest love, not indeed to a fantastic ideal of Jesus, invented by unbelieving imaginations, but to the true persons of Jesus Christ, such as the Holy Scriptures alone make him known to us, in all His humility, but also in all His beauty, His power and His glory. Let us attach ourselves to Him, not only for our own peace, but also for the salvation of the Church. We are in a great crisis, I would almost say, but if we are under the eye of such a friend, who has said with truth, "All power is given unto Me, in heaven and in earth" (Matthew xxviii. 18,) and if He has added, "I am with you always" (Matthew xxviii. 20,) should we not be senseless if in this pressing danger we did not apply for help to that friend. Well, those words were addressed to us by the Son of God. We are full of confidence in the reality of His promises; let us act accordingly.—*From Paper for Evangelical Alliance, by late Fr. Merle D'Aubigne.*