

The first thing to be achieved, as it is the last thing to be achieved, was a certainty of truth; or, as I would say, a consciousness of truth. And as we believe Jesus Christ to be certain to himself that He knew all truth and was all truth, we contrast Him with the beginnings of the consciousness of truth.

But what were those beginnings? They were the postulates of all thinking; they were the universally accepted realities which were known intuitively; they were facts which no man could prove, and which no man could doubt; and they constituted the primary consciousness of man. And thus the foundations of all reasoning are laid in faith. This is the fulcrum, even faith, on which reason placed her lever and tried to lift the world to God; this is the base on which reason erected a ladder that she might climb, round by round, up into the light of divine knowledge.

Beginning, therefore, with what was self-evident, reason discovered one fact after another in the realm of thought, and every fact once discovered was added to the calendar of consciousness, and knowledge grew from more to more, and all the facts of truth certainly known I call the consciousness of truth. It is in this sense that I speak of the consciousness of Christ; it was because Paul could boldly compare the truth of Christ with the truth of the wise men that he was not ashamed of his ministry. It is not assuming anything to say that Jesus Christ is the end of thought, or is the wisdom of God; it is a fact of history that He is so, for all philosophy flows into Him as all rivers flow into the sea. The question discussed by Origen fifteen hundred years ago was discussed by Dr. Lee before the Parliament of Religions, at Chicago. viz., "Christ the Reason of the Universe." Religion is the supreme question of thought to-day, and the Supreme Person of religion is Christ. We may say that the moral consciousness of the civilized world, and its conceptions of Divinity, are the creations of Christ—His personality has produced them.

It is not without interest in this connection to notice the stages of progress which are distinctly seen in the discovery of truth through the researches of reason. Before the Divine