

dropped into the gas flame. They blazed up brightly, and were used to illustrate how Reason sometimes flashes out very brilliantly in men of genius, enabling them to understand and explain things with more than ordinary clearness.

"But in how far does the light of Reason enable a man to know God?" said the speaker. You see the windows of this church, the walls, the seats, the doors, the organ, all of them evidently designed and arranged for some purpose. Well, suppose one were to say: 'This building was never planned, not even thought of, indeed, until one morning it was found just as it stands. It came here by chance.' Would you believe it? 'Certainly not,' you say. You did not see it built, but you are sure that somebody must have planned and built it. In like manner, looking around one in the world, why is the ocean salt, and the sky blue, and the trees green, and the flowers gay? Or why is there a deep, restless longing within you for something that is above self, even for Him Who is the Almighty One? As you think it all out, you gradually become convinced that you yourself were created by a strong, wise, and merciful God, in order that you, too, might fulfil God's great eternal purposes.

"But the greatest light of 'all is yet to be named.'" Here the preacher touched the button of a powerful incandescent lamp, which stood in a central position upon the pulpit. It flashed out with startling effect, quite dimming the lesser lights on either side of it. "This lamp stands for Him Who said, 'I am the light of the world.'"

"How is it that this light leads young searchers for God so much more effectively than do the others? Because it was given us for that very purpose; it is that 'true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world'; because it is so much clearer than any other light; because this light is verily God Himself, 'He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.'"

In closing, the speaker, like a skilful teacher, summed up his points. The light of Nature and the light of Reason has each its value, and should be followed so far as it leads, but neither, nor the both taken together, can reveal God completely. We can find Him out "unto perfection" only by the aid of that Light which is Christ. We are to remember, too, that we cannot see any light, however bright, unless we have open eyes. But Christ is opening people's eyes to-day when they

seek for this help, just as He opened the eyes of many blind men when He was on earth. We are gratefully to use all the light God has given us, and more will come. Following after Jesus (as He Himself said), we shall not walk in darkness, but "shall have the light of life."

Very impressive were the two or three moments of silent prayer which followed the sermon; and then came the voice of the preacher, speaking slowly and softly in the midst of the stillness:

**"Light Thou our way, our Father,
through Thy Son, until we see Thy face
in yonder light: Amen and Amen."**

THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD

By Mrs. Mattie Rose Crawford.

"A mother's love—how sweet the name!
What is a mother's love?
A noble, pure and tender flame,
Enkindled from above."

The centre of society is the home. The centre of home-life is the mother. From the home radiate the influences that make the nations of the world mean or great. The weight of a mother's influence upon the lives and characters of a nation's children can no more be estimated than can the effect of the sun in the world of nature.

Silently, steadily, radiating in every direction, piercing far below the surface, even to the very roots of life, does each work, final results, rather than present visible effects testifying to the greatness of the power at work in each case. And just as truly as the sun must shine as it does because of its very nature, so truly must the mother influence as she does because of her motherhood.

Each of these central forces stands out pre-eminently great, the one in the natural world, the other in the moral world, as touched in a special way by the Divine Hand of the Great Creator, and as specially appointed to the work to be done in their respective spheres.

But, alas! as we contemplate the results of these influences in the face of the centuries, the thoughtful must ever be struck with the fact that partial faithfulness only has marked the carrying out of the divine commission as given to the mother, the centre of the home, whilst the centre of the great solar system has been unfailing in its faithfulness.