

(1.) "Can a man of culture seriously believe in supernatural religion?" Says one. "Can modern thought accept a God who became a man, and allowed men to kill him?" Says another. "Are not these fables the foundation of all religions?—Every where the crude attempts of immature thought? Can we be expected to believe that God gave a revelation of His word; and then left it to the careless keeping of indolent, ignorant men, whose incapacity has made it a mass of disputed readings, and doubtful texts? Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

Come and see! Let speculative objections stand for what they are worth. Answered, or not answered, they do not account for Christ and Christianity. Christianity is a fact; and as a fact it must be dealt with. Do not waste words about that could have been, or could not have been, come and see what is. Jesus, who is called Christ, lived; nobody doubts that. Then hear him, hear what he said and taught, and compare this with the sayings, and the teachings of the best and wisest of mankind—only hear with a fair mind, and I have no doubt that your verdict will be, "never *man* spake like this man." Look, I do not say at the lepers cleansed, the lame walking, the dead raised—these (though they are not to be ignored nor shunted with a sneer) are lesser matters,—but see the extortioner on honest man, and scrupulous; see the lost one restored, penitent, pure; see the hard heart softened; see the power of Jesus upon the human heart; and you shall say, with Nicodemus, "no man can do these miracles which thou doest except God be with him." Follow out with an honest heart the story of the Sacred Life, and your heart will echo the judgment of the Roman officer who superintended the crucifixion—"truly this was the Son of God."

(2.) "Well but," says another, "religion is such an unmanly thing—only fit for women and children, and weak minded men. It is destructive of the high spirit, the prompt courage springing quick at honor's call, which become a man."

Is it so? Come and see. Christ is the Christian's model. And was Jesus this timid, poor spirited thing? Of arrogance indeed, and overbearing rudeness, His demeanour