

led to doubt: why should they? It is the God of the pulpit, the God of confessional orthodoxy, that staggered them; it is the attitude of the Christian preacher and worker that repelled them. Remember I am not romancing or theorizing, but am giving my actual experience, experience which I can vouch for more readily than could Spencer for those in his *Pastors' Sketches*. Nor does this experience relate simply to stumbling blocks emanating from our own Presbyterian fold. Episcopalians, Baptists and Methodists, Unitarians and Swedenborgians, to say nothing of the chameleon-like Congregationalists have all had their share in shutting up the Kingdom of God. What have we to do to judge them that are without, the world-made infidels, while we have our own lapsed ones, the product of home manufacture? In bitterness of soul have I recalled my own teachings of other days, in grief have I listened to the discourses of others, that, all unwittingly on the part of the devout preachers, were temptations to unbelief.

The Shorter Catechism says, and very truly, that "The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man." Now this is just what my doubters wanted to know—what God is, and what like is the God-made man. They were told that God is Justice, that He smote His own Son, that His vengeful hand is raised to smite every sinner. Sometimes there would be added to this God's hardening of human hearts, and His absolute predestination of multitudes to sin and death. James says, "God tempteth no man," but the preacher quotes the Old Testament to show that James was mistaken. John says "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all:" but a supposed light of the New York Presbytery answers, "look about you on every side and see the darkness," and quoting again from the Old Testament, "Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?" The same John says "God is love:" and Paul adds "Love is the fulfilling of the law." To these statements agree President McCosh, Dr. Schaff, Professor Drummond, Mr. Moody, Dr. Munro Gibson, and a host of Bible students: but others and not a few, reply "Love is not the greatest thing in the world; Justice stands first with God, and Faith with man." The doubters see contradiction here: for if Justice stand first, how can Love triumph over it, and what is that Faith worth that does not spring from an apprehension of the love of God, and that does not work by love? They find great emphasis laid upon our Lord's words, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate," so interpreted as to make of God's kingdom a select