

THE WORLD PROBLEM

the Bible for them? What was its legitimate authority for thinking men anywhere? Are things true because they are in the Bible? Did the Bible create truth? Or have things fundamentally true for other reasons been collected into a book? What is the ultimate foundation for their truthfulness? Can or cannot the Bible stand the crucible through which all thought is now passing? What is the criterion of truth? Where the source of the true?

Once more to settle the question, the missionary lays aside every book—even the Bible itself—and, no human being near who could settle the point to his satisfaction, he goes into convention with God. Face to face with the Silence and the Unseen,

“He fought his doubts and gathered strength,
He would not make his judgment blind,
He faced the spectres of the mind
And laid them: thus he came at length
To find a stronger faith his own,
And Power was with him in the night.”

As absolutely unshaken as the consciousness of his own existence was the consciousness of God, of the Christ as an embodiment of the divine character, and of the spiritual contact with the Infinite Love. From that starting-point, how reconstruct the intellectual conceptions of divine truth? Where shall we place the Bible? Old theology? The Churches? The final decision was: “I will hold that truth is fundamentally one; is of God—whether in nature, science, philosophy, religion, or the Bible—always a revelation of God, and from God. If God’s truth is in the Bible it will show itself indestructible in any crucible of honest investigation. Into the crucible it shall go with the hope, the expectation, that