

THE DIVINE CHALLENGE

His disciples did not see, we behold the expanding and miraculous phenomenon of Christianity through nearly twenty centuries — the significance of Christ in history, the supremacy that He has won over the souls and minds of men, the effect which belief in Him has had over all who have truly embraced it, and through them, over great tracts of time, wide fields of event, immense domains of thought, morals and conduct — we see this, and ask, “Could a mere man do this?” Was not this the very God incarnate, God made manifest in Jesus, so that He who has wrought these wonders in the world might truly claim, “I am in the Father, and the Father in me; I and the Father are one.”

For the sake of clearness in definition we may say, that the works of Christ are manifest in three directions — the mind, the heart, and the conduct of men. His work upon the mind is seen in the intellectual ideals of men; on the heart, in their moral life; on the conduct, in their practical life. Let us put aside if you will, all questions of the person of Christ. Let us assume that all which we know is that many centuries ago there appeared in an obscure village of the obscurest country in the world, a young man, who for three years aroused considerable interest among His countrymen. By all accounts He had the genius to be loved, and to be hated; He made friends and He made enemies; He disregarded the prejudices and conventions of society; He taught