

man spake, because he saw as never man saw. In his person, God looked on the visible world through the eyes of Man; and Man looked on the unseen world with the eyes of God. Whenever Jesus turned himself about in this workaday world, he saw precisely what we see: but he saw infinitely more. He saw, that is to say, remarkable analogies, which served to illustrate and even prove his spiritual message: analogies, which cease to be remarkable, when it is remembered that He Himself *made* the whole realm of nature and exercises an unerring Providence over the affairs of men. For even with all the moral imperfections that still adhere to things temporal in consequence of the Fall, He was yet able to find apposite illustrations in the concrete of the Truth he would fain convey to the minds and hearts of men: and this, without the introduction of anything unnatural, forced or grotesque. Other teachers, alive to the advantages of the pictorial method, have used the fable, wherein they have endowed the brute creation with human faculties and have succeeded in teaching striking lessons in worldly prudence: but such a grotesque method is utterly unfitted for conveying spiritual truth. These parables of Jesus are "earthly stories," if you choose to call them so: but with this qualification—they are most emphatically, what a little girl once called them, earthly stories "with a heavenly meaning." Nor as such have they

become effete. It seems to me we need to look into them for their heavenly meaning all the more in these days when the myriad presses of the world are pouring forth "earthly stories" which can be regarded (some of them) as loaded simply with a hellish meaning. Never was the pictorial form of teaching more in vogue than now, and, to an extent greater perhaps than is generally realised it is moulding the opinions and regulating the lives of the growing youth of Christendom. Now, in the name of all that is sacred, why should it be allowed so largely to come under pernicious influences? The devil has no right to this method: it belongs to Jesus. At the particular crisis of which we have spoken he deliberately abandoned for the time being his straight-out undisguised utterances of the truth, and resorted to vivid word pictures, which at once arrested the attention and threw a more than earthly spell over the hearts and lives of those who had eyes to see.

Think of the *extraordinary attractiveness* of the method.

Why is it that the run on books in the great public libraries all over the world is said to be so extensively in the department of fiction? Is it not because man have eyes and want to see?

Why is it that as soon as a book proves to be a great success it is almost certain to be dramatized and put upon the stage, and people will