

character, and not be a christian at heart. And there is no one sect in the ample field of christendom, that has not christian truth enough to kindle christian life in its members. Let me say again by way of explanation, that I do not wish men to be indifferent to doctrines, or to sectarian views. In the glow of generous and truly christian feeling, men will often say — “ Well, it makes no difference about doctrines, provided the heart is right.” It does make a difference — and the difference is just as wide as the gap between truth and error. It makes this difference — that the soul that imbibes an erroneous instead of a true doctrine, is less happy, and less advanced in its true life, than it might be. Still, there is truth at the bottom of the expression — “ It makes no difference what a man believes;” and it lies at the point at which I am now arriving. The meaning of it is this — that the truth is worth but little unless it produces its fruits, and, if it produce its fruits, this is the chief end ; and there is a conviction in saying this, that in all sects there is truth enough to produce good fruits. And I say so too. In every christian denomination, there is enough of vital, kindling christianity to make good hearts. No one can sit at the foot of the cross, as a devoted, earnest disciple, and not feel the light that rays out from it moving upon his soul. No one can take the simple christian law of love to God, and love to man, and go by its guidance, and yet be an immortal man. No one can stand by that cleft rock, and that irradiated tomb, and not believe that religion appeals to something deeper than time and sense, to which we must awake, and for which we must strive. These are indisputable facts, first principles, that are tacitly admitted by all who assume the christian name. But, I