

ever anomalies, paradoxes, apparent inconsistencies appear in the history of the God phenomenal we have no more right to question them than we have any other truthful record of fact. We are not called upon to be guilty of the impertinence of justifying the ways of God to man, but simply to declare those ways. Wisdom is justified of all her children. He justifies God who obeys Him not he who apologises for his acts and words. The atonement has been called an immoral transaction because in it the innocent suffered for the guilty. The destruction of the Canaanites by Israel has been similarly characterized although it possesses no feature in common with the former. Because a man chooses to say that these two things shock his high moral sense are they to be taken out of the way? Which is the greater, fact or that most variable, inconsistent thing, a moral sense? I remember stating once at a dinner table, in the presence of a well-known divine and college dignitary, that our Lord was in the habit of eating meat with Pharisees and others on the Sabbath days, to which he replied that he was very sorry to hear it. Let the world furnish its rules and laws for the household, the community, the state; let it formulate its systems of human ethics and logic, but let it beware of sitting in judgment upon divinity, of framing any code to which even in man's imagination infinite freedom must conform. "Oh, man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it why hast thou made me thus?" Fact is greater than theory, and no amount of theorizing, agitate your theories as you will, can overturn it. All men are equal, say certain forms of republicanism, socialism, communism, but the facts of social life all over the world, through all its ages, deny the assertion, and afford no tittle of evidence that men ever will stand all on the same level. Predestination is looked upon by many as a monstrous error, and hands are lifted in holy horror to avert the gaze from what is deemed to be a fatalistic creed. Nevertheless, within the compass of the smallest area of human society, this predestination is found working in the so-called accidents of birth and physical condition and moral environment. "There is no such thing as freedom," cries the genuine fatalist, who presides too often over lunatic asylums and similar institutions, but let him place himself within the power of the law by an act which he pretends that he cannot help performing; and that law, speaking from a truer knowledge of fact, straightway condemns him. So, reason as we will concerning God, we shall be found kicking against the pricks, running upon the thick bosses of the Almighty's bucklers, if that reasoning be founded upon, nay if it consist of aught else than, what has been revealed to man by the phenomenal God.

The tendency to shake off all authority has almost reached its climax in the thinking of the present day. Doubt is prevalent everywhere, suspicion is rife in society. The grand friendships, the unshaken confidences, the unswerving loyalty of the past, where are they? Man has a right to doubt,