

This theory is beset by intellectual difficulties, which cannot be explained away. It fails to account for the fact that Jesus, a Galilean carpenter, who had the advantage neither of social status nor of intellectual training, and who died at the early age of thirty-three, has gained by His teaching and example a spiritual influence over men—an influence which has been transmitted through the ages and which is more powerful in the world to-day than it has ever been before. It is said that on one occasion, when Napoleon was conversing about the great men of the ancient world, he turned to Count Montholon with the enquiry, "Can you tell me who Jesus Christ was?" The question was declined and Napoleon proceeded, "Well then I will tell you. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I myself have founded great empires; but upon what did these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions would die for Him. I think I understand something of human nature; and I tell you all these were men and I am a man: none else is like Him. Jesus Christ was more than a man. . . I have inspired multitudes with such an enthusiastic devotion that they would have died for me; but to do this it was necessary that I should be visibly present with the electric influence of my looks, of my words, of my voice. When I saw men and spoke to them, I lighted up the flame of self-devotion in their hearts. . . Christ alone has succeeded in so raising the mind of man toward the Unseen, that it becomes insensible to the barriers of time and space. Across a chasm of eighteen hundred years, Jesus Christ makes a demand, which is beyond all others difficult to satisfy; He asks for that which a philosopher may often seek in vain at the hands of his friends, or a father of his children, or a bride of her spouse, or a man of his brother. He asks for the human heart; He will have it entirely to Himself. He demands it unconditionally and forthwith His demand is granted. Wonderful! In defiance of time and space, the soul of man with all its powers and faculties becomes an annexation to the empire of Christ. All who sincerely believe in Him experience that remarkable supernatural love toward Him. This phenomenon is unaccountable; it is altogether beyond the scope of man's creative powers. Time the great destroyer is powerless to extinguish this sacred flame, time can neither exhaust its strength nor put a limit to its range. This it is which strikes me most; I have often thought of it. This it is which proves to me quite convincingly the Divinity of Jesus Christ."