

and illuminated by gratitude and admiration. John—as he assures us—could have filled the world with books. In the result, he left us less than an advertisement page of the *Times*. We talk of the higher criticism, but no criticism was higher than that of the Evangelists, for the crucible in which they refined their gold, till it was pure as glass, was a crucible, not of scholarship, but of experience. And while there have been innumerable attempts to undermine the authenticity of the Gospels, it is to be noted that in these two thousand years not one alternative biography, based on malice, on superstition, or on skepticism, has replaced them.

#### **The Fourfold Portrait.**

The Gospels are like quarterings on the royal escutcheon of the Saviour. In the Book of Revelation we find a resplendent symbol of His glowing coat-of-arms. There we read of the four living creatures: the lion, the lamb, the human face, and the flying eagle, all singing their "Holy, holy, holy," to the Source of their being and ours. These mystical personages, foreshadowed by the poet Isaiah, have their six wings—with twain to cover the face, which is reverence; with twain to cover the feet, which is humility; and with twain to fly, which is service. Reverence, humility, service—these were the characteristics of the biographers, who, writing anonymously, desired no literary rewards, but set down their narratives in crabbed penmanship, as part of their daily work and worship.

In Mark we see the lion-like man—active, untiring, with an imperial energy, and masterful in every impulse. There, at Venice, the Lion of Mark still