

I may say that the effort of thinking men has always been to obtain a consciousness of truth, to solve the enigma of life, to clear away the mist that involves the truth in obscurity, and to find reasonable ground for conduct and for religion; and that by the consciousness of Jesus Christ I mean His comprehension of the truth which ever has engaged, and ever will engage, the fullest exercise of the powers of the human mind. "What is the truth?" said Pilate, repeating a question the sophists had not answered. "I am the truth," said Jesus, declaring himself to be an incarnate consciousness of what the world was ignorant of, but of what it industriously sought to know.

Those who would interpret Jesus Christ by the commentaries of psychology and metaphysics, should remember that He is not the child of philosophy; and they should remember the nothingness of the beginnings and the barrenness of the endings of their system of interpretation.

The question which a British statesman discussed the other day, and which may be taken to be the cardinal question among thoughtful men, is the very question with which philosophy began to build its structure twenty-three hundred years ago. "What are the foundations of belief?" inquires the Hon. Arthur Balfour in the last decade of the nineteenth century. "What are the foundations of belief?" inquired Socrates four hundred years before the Christian era. The philosophy of to-day had its origin in the necessity of a reasonable ground for faith. And one cannot turn back and survey the annals of those ancient times without feeling such pity as one feels who thinks upon the Mound-Builders of our race. Nor can one doubt the divinity of man when he sees the prodigious and heroic labors which were made to restore a vanishing faith and revive a dying hope. It was because the Gentile world had lost its confidence in the credibility of its myths, its traditions, and its cults, and thereby was losing its religion and its moral consciousness, that an imperative demand was created for such truth as would arrest the moral decline; and ancient philosophy is nothing less than an attempt to save the world.