

DWELLING IN TENTS

"Dwelling in Tents, he looked for the City"

THE earliest ancestors of our faith were nomads, and the imprint of their wandering life has been left indelibly upon the Christian religion. We call ourselves pilgrims and strangers. We say that on the solid earth we are but sojourners, and that only for a little while. We learned these words from the ancient men of the desert. Every day the men who dwelt in tents were impressed with the mutability of human things. The tent could be pitched here or there or anywhere; and in all the shiftings of the desert life there was little sense of permanence or home.

In this ancestry of our religion we see the wise providence of God. For if religion gives us anything, it must give us the sense of something fixed amid the uncertainties, something stable amid the instabilities of life; and before we can appreciate the city that standeth fast, whose foundations are in the holy mountains, we must have the insecurity of all things earthly borne in upon our soul. Now the life of the early Hebrews was fitted to impress