

they have been guilty of," as are daily found in their paper. You will see what a time the higher critics will have then ! (Laughter.)

From all this worship of self in its various forms—gold, mammon, and the glory of this world which passes away—how good it is to be brought into the company of the splendid ideal for the individual and for the aggregate of individuals, the nation. The Christ, the Son of God, born in a stable ; brought up and absolutely satisfied with His poverty ; one who ever breathed a sympathy with all need. It was the stand He took with the deep need, and feeling for the weary and heavy-laden that led Him to the cross ; working and toiling, and going about doing good ; buried in a borrowed tomb, and living that sweet and holy life which alone is the hope of the world. Opposed to all the narrow vanity and selfishness of the world, how pleasant it is to hear the words coming as from heaven itself, giving us the best and truest standard, and through that an irresistible power, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. vi. 33) ; "Love your enemies" (Luke vi. 27) ; "Do good to them which hate you" ; "It is more blessed to give than to receive" ; "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you do ye even so to them" ; "Recompense to no man evil for evil, but overcome evil with good." Do you suppose if we stood firm there and said, "You are wrong, and wrong can never be right, and though it may be for a little time evil for us, we will do what is right, right, right, for we want the righteousness that exalteth a nation," that other people would not be shamed into it and say, "You are right and we are wrong, and we retract what we have done" ? "Overcome evil with good." The Greek philosopher wanted but a place to rest his lever, and he would move the world. This Bible is our lever, and the nation is that which is to be touched by it. The force of its principles and teachings would be irresistible. That nation is the true nation, the life of which is brought into harmony with its teachings. If this is to be wrought into the nation it must be in and through the Christian people—the Church. In reading the life of Dr. Arnold I was very much struck with this. When he went to Rugby he was there to change the whole mode of conducting the great English schools ; and when he had been there but a short while he got his own class together, the Sixth Form, the highest class of boys, and he said, "Boys, I can do little in this work ; you can do it for me ; you can go up and down.