

His presence felt without any of our poor attempts to vindicate His cause, and that even if the intellect of the world could do without a God, the heart could not be so easily satisfied. They seem, too, to indicate to us what our duty is : not to indulge in denunciation, not even to be greatly concerned to answer every new objection that may be urged, or to refute every fresh theory that may be started to account for the existence of the universe without the acknowledgment of a Creator, but rather to see how it may be possible to meet and satisfy the longings of human hearts hungering after God, but unable to understand the craving by which they are consumed. It is not logical demonstrations, or metaphysical definitions, which such spirits need. It is not a great First Cause, whose existence and attributes nature is to reveal to them, the Architect and Builder of this wondrous universe, whom they need to see. Even were we able to show Him to them, He might be—this God of Paley's clear, frosty logic—as dead, as distant, as devoid of all that could attract the heart, and command its adoration and love, as the forces which they see in action and of which they are taught to regard Him as the author. The mere Lawgiver might well be no more to them than the Law ; Himself, indeed, but another Law behind all the rest. To us the demonstration of the existence of the Creator seems complete ; but if we could go no further, and learn nothing more about Him, as profitless as it is complete. It is difficult to understand how any mind can entertain the idea that this marvellous system—with laws so numerous and complicated, crossing and recrossing each other, extending through so many different worlds and systems, and having their own conditions and limitations in each, only increasing in marvels if the doctrine of evolution be accepted—is self-created, its life self-quickened, its order self-ordered, its springs self-moved. I cannot consent to set aside as worthless this teleological argument, which has always exercised, and despite the impossibility of verifying its conclusions, will continue to exercise, this influence on the practical reason, the common sense of mankind. On the contrary, I maintain that the discoveries of science, instead of weakening, have strengthened it, and that if we could believe, as an anonymous speculator has suggested, that in a piece of granite there are latent powers out of which all varieties of vegetable and animal life might be developed, it would, if possible, be stronger than ever. Our conception as to the mode in which creative power has been exercised would be revolutionized ; but our belief as to the existence of that power would only be increased by indicating the proof of far-reaching wisdom in the mode of its employment."

Farther on he thus interprets the "oppositions of science, falsely so-called," and the cry of the great unsatisfied multitude, who are ever seeking for something the world has not to give them. "And yet, amid all this confusion and tumult, there is an undertone, which may at times be detected, of sadness, of felt want, of eager desire, more worthy of careful study than the loud notes of defiance which fill the air. It breaks upon us now as it were a wail of despair, now as a passionate reproach, now, it may be, as a mocking taunt, but ever we hear in it a cry of the heart for the God it needs but has not found. "Show us the Father," not "an eternal," not even an Omnipotent and Omniscient Power, the life and light of all this wondrous world we see ; but a loving God, a true Father, as he was manifest in Christ, seems to us to be the burden of that cry when rightly understood.

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS.

Are we too sanguine in thus interpreting its sighs, its despairing wails, even its daring blasphemies ? If there be any such feeling, we may well ask ourselves whether we have done anything to produce this feeling, and whether now we always deal wisely with it ? Have we been true witnesses of God ? Is it possible that, if the Church had always faithfully represented His character, we should to-day have had to contend against the swelling tide of unbelief ? Can we hope to stem it except as we are able to show that the mightiest power for the elevation