

## 4. The Practical.

We shall finally consider the Atonement in its actual power to-day. It is said that in music there are notes too lofty and too deep for mortal ear to hear, but the chords which fill the soul with satisfaction must harmonize with these undertones and overtones beyond our ken. There is a height and there is a depth in the atoning love of God that is beyond us; but the discord of life is transmuted into concord with the eternal harmony of heaven by that divine death, which is the victory over the world.

For the marvellous thing about the Atonement is its power to-day. It uplifts to-day; it redeems to-day; it saves to-day. It is not only a victory of history. It is a victory of present-day life. It is a fact, in this 20th century, that the man who looks to Jesus does live. As we glance through the vistas of history, we see it exemplified in a thousand lives. Paul, Augustine, Francis of Assissi, Luther, Latimer, with a myriad million of the sinful, struggling, weary, despondent and sin-sick sons of men, laden with the sin-weight, haunted with the guilt-fear, struggling with the sin-force, tormented with the sin-pain, have found in Him who died in their peace. "The Atonement," said the great scientist, Sir David Brewster. "Oh, it is everything to me! It meets my reason, it satisfies my conscience, it fills my heart." (See also that fine passage in Drummond, *the Ideal Life*, p. 187.)

Or, take our hymns. We want no better theology and no better religion than are set forth in these hymns, says a great theologian (Hodge, *Syst. Theol.*, ii : 591).

The finest exhibition of the practical power of the Atonement is found in those hymns which voice the triumph, and the confidence, and the gratitude, and the loyalty of the soul that cries with Cowper :