

listlessly from her hand, and a heap of musical instruments lies mute at her feet, which mortal hands can never attune to such celestial strains as she was listening to. Mary Magdalen and another Mary are intent with her in wrapt elation and devotion, and a priest, the fourth figure in the group, in his less refined and ecstatic expression, shares, nevertheless, these feelings in his degree. But St. Paul, who occupies as prominent a place on the canvas as the patron saint of music herself, looks down to earth. He is not given by the inspired painter a look of disapproval, but merely one of wonderment and doubt as to whether men can be saved through their emotions instead of by their reasonable beliefs. The superb bursts of poetry which relieve his dogmatic writings express the mastery which emotions at times possessed over his mind. Had he been a simple peasant or a fisherman and not a pupil of Gamaliel, brought up in the schools, the emotional element of his nature might have predominated over the thinking of a philosopher. Nevertheless St. Paul's character and writings were necessary to complete the composite structure of Holy Writ, and to lead the Church in its endeavours to systematize the themes of Christian theology. The human mind demands a consistent scheme, but whether Paul's fragmentary thoughts must be received as the only basis for an acceptable scheme, or merely as an experiment, is a subject for legitimate difference of opinion. The permanent value represented by them will be suspected to lie rather in the profound, personal experience which they express in forms derived from the ideas of his age.

As to the writings of St. John, the disciple whom Jesus loved best, he might well have written the gospel attributed to him by tradition. The document was accepted by the early Church as written by him, and as expressing a phase of Christian thought—the mystical. It has consoled in their afflictions more troubled souls, and solved the doubts of more waverers than the arguments of St. Paul.

So, likewise, with regard to the Epistle of St. James: it harmonizes with the views of those who, in regenerating