

proper time. It seems as though it might kill the tree to bare its roots to the cold nipping frosts—yet true culture requires this. Has not the Divine Husbandman said, I will dig about it? What has He been doing by those processes of thought which the sceptical school have necessitated, but baring, as it were, the very roots of faith in all Christian souls, that they might grow better. I can say from experience, that I feel more truly and certainly christian, from re-investigation of the evidences in the light of recent objections, but especially the great evidence—the character of Jesus. But, indeed, are we not doing this always? Whenever we open the Gospels in a right spirit we are conscious of the pure presence of Him who proceeded forth and came from God. But, you say, every

sceptical book and argument is a as dark shadow obscuring that character. Yes, but I have observed that the Sun of Righteousness turns these clouds to heavenly glories. In them we may, if we are in His company, see Him transfigured. Jesus has so shone, even upon many sceptic minds, that they have raised for Him a tabernacle for worship. We have gone beyond them in their conclusions. They will rise to our conceptions, we cannot descend to theirs. We have placed on the mount of transfiguration the temple to which all nations shall flow, and the eyes of all the ages shall turn—where Jesus sits, in its holy of holies, the sinless, the holy, the perfect—the Son of Man and the Son of God, the only-begotten—very God of very God, Saviour, Propitiation, Ruler and Judge.

