

clared, "When I was a child I spake as a child, but when I became a man I put away childish things." In our early years we have our doubts and fears, and we are in bondage to these, and it should be our earnest desire to be set free from these bonds. This fear of God which we entertained with our conception of Him as a great mighty Being, throned upon high, sitting in judgment, full of wrath towards His erring children! O, the bondage of such a thought, of such a mistaken theory! By a truer knowledge of God we are set free. Let us not be afraid to examine for ourselves, not holding so blindly the traditions of the fathers, forgetting the privilege and council to "prove all things and hold fast to that which is good." To the seeker after truth it is opened. To him that knocks it is unlocked. I once overheard a conversation between a young man and a religious professor. The young man, placing his hand upon his breast, said, I know it is truth because I feel it to be so here. The professor said, "that is the worst place possible to go for truth. The human heart is depraved and no good can come out of it. What is not found in the Bible is not to be accepted." The young man simply told him that he had not been so taught. He had risen from this bondage into the liberty that proves all things, he did not feel bound to the traditions of the past that did not seem to accord with the divine truth within him. He had passed from the bondage of the letter that killeth to the freedom of the spirit wherein we may be made alive. How comforting to know that though the written record by some chance be swept out of existence we would still have the word of God in the soul, for he writes his laws on the tablet of the heart. It is better to honor the present inspiring light than to conform to the light of past ages. Herein we sin against our highest development by following the light of another. The outward sun does

not produce the same effect upon the substances it shines upon. Some are more receptive, some more reflective. It is the same with us. According to our receptivity is the measure of our light. The spiritual sun shines eternally as the outward sun in the heavens. The clouds and the mists are near the earth that hide the sun from us, so in the human mind are found the doubts and fears that obscure the light of God. And these mists and clouds vary in density in different minds, rendered so by difference in education and environment, but the light can penetrate through these sufficiently and more clearly as we are willing to let it, until the whole purpose of life is revealed and the way plainly marked out.

It will also set us free from bondage to a selfish life and every propensity will be directed and controlled by it, and we shall never fail to carry a sense of responsibility for every faculty and every gift of God. A just sense of this responsibility will help us to regulate these appetites, which is the mission of our lives here. It will not avail to plead excuses, to say that we cannot control our inherited propensities. Were we not created in the Divine image, a little lower than the angels, in very touch with the Divine. O the glory of humanity when lived aright! Consider your responsibilities as fathers and mothers, co-workers with the Creator in preparing temples for the inbreathing of the breath of life, by the purity of your lives transmitting to your offspring a tendency towards all that is good, endowing them with a mighty incentive to virtue. O I would I might write with a pen of fire and speak with a tongue of eloquence in regard to our human responsibility—co-operating with the Divine in promoting a higher condition for the children of men that follow. I came to you as a stranger, but feel banded with you by love and aspirations for these better things. I deeply desire that ye shall know the truth that makes free.