

accustom the eyes of humanity (rather, I should say, of an infinitely small section of humanity) to that brightness. But the gleam will become perfect day, and, after having run the round of all errors, humanity will come back to this saying, as the immortal expression of its faith and of its hope." Listen to this ye who say that nothing spiritual, nothing ideal, nothing absolutely true, can survive the destruction of superstition by science. Listen to it ye, also, who cling desperately to the dogmatic and the supernatural in the belief that when these are gone Christianity and religion must perish. Even if we could imagine that, under the destructive touch of criticism, the woman of Samaria, the well, the very Speaker himself, should disappear, or become doubtful forms, in a mist of legend, the truth of the words spoken would remain. It would remain even if we could be constrained to believe that they were the utterance of an unknown teacher recorded by an unknown hand. Most perplexing are the widely different pictures of the Founder of Christianity and of the details of His history presented by the multiplicity of Lives which the passionate desire to see Him closer and know more of Him has brought forth : each biographer, in fact, makes a Christ after his own image ; and the result is painful doubt as to the definiteness and unity of the character itself. But the sayings are separable from the incidents ; and we believe that those who are most conversant with antiquity would agree with us in thinking that, while the life of a teacher was far less likely to be written by contemporary hands and with critical accuracy in those days than in these, his sayings were more likely to be remembered.

In our last number we cited Mr. Herbert Spencer and another Positivist writer as witnesses to the probable occurrence of an interval of time between the decline of the old religious morality and the advent of the scientific morality that is to be. We might have added that the other Positivist, as well as Mr. Spencer, gives us to understand that when the scientific morality comes, it will be a rationalised Christianity. Rationalise Christianity as much as you will, it is essentially and immutably