

budded into redemptive purposes. Is the mould to be preserved, or will it be shattered when it strikes against the hard facts of experience and trial? Shall these buds unfold into flowers rich in the seeds of everlasting life, or must they be nipped and blasted in the frosty air of a sceptical and materialistic age? The wilderness gives the answer. The sacrificial mould is to remain intact. The buds of redemptive purposes are to go on to golden fruitage. The programme of service which the Father had given Him is not to be superseded, but fulfilled to the very letter. The experience of the temptation only served to test and reveal and confirm His life-plan. The tremendous pressure which was put upon Him in the wilderness proved the granitic quality, the adamantine firmness of the basis of that bridge which He came to construct across the gulf of human sin.

Three possible uses for His unrivalled powers were suggested to Jesus by the tempter. They are the same uses of power to which all men of force and genius are liable to be tempted. The first suggestion was that He should use His power for the acquisition of material goods; the second, that He should use it for the excitement of popular applause; and the third was, that