

accomplish the end of Christ's coming, without the death of the cross. That was the death by which humanity lives. No wonder that Paul averred, "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." These Scriptures ceased not their testimony of Jesus the Christ at the cross and tomb. With the language of joyous conviction and holy triumph they witness—"The Lord is risen indeed." Of His resurrection they testify in great variety of form. They cease not even then, but add their witness to the glorious ascension of the risen Messiah. "And He led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up His hands and blessed them. And it came to pass while He blessed them He was parted from them and carried up into Heaven." What is the Scripture's estimate of Christ? What is their estimate of Him whom they reveal in so many forms and relations, as we have to-night? Look at this wonderful being in the light of type, prophecy, and history, and interrogate this Book as to the character and dignity of Jesus Christ. It hides not, but rather glories in the recital of, his humanness. Christ is seen as the child, as the man, as the hungry man, the sleeping man, as the weeping man, as the suffering man, and as the dying man—The Son of Man. But this Book accords with equal emphasis and prominence the dignity and glory of divinity to Him who was the child born and son given. It is worthy of remark that the Scriptures never argue or attempt to prove the divinity of Christ, but affirm it, just as they affirm the other facts of His life, as though none could doubt it. Being then both divine and human, how grandly Christ stands before us, as the all-sufficient and glorious Saviour of the race. Christ is the friend and the ransom of mankind. Apart from the text of Revelation what is the historical testimony to Jesus Christ? The voices of many witnesses, a multitude of them that no man could number, do testify that Christ has power on earth to forgive sin, to confer peace upon troubled hearts, to implant a glorious hope in breasts despondent, and to cleanse the defiled heart from all unrighteousness. Concerning the Saviour revealed in the Scriptures, many say now, as Paul did to Timothy, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." Christianity itself is the most sublime testimony on behalf of the Christ of Scripture. Look abroad over every land, and see and hear for yourself. Its material temples, its ever increasing literature, its multiform organizations—the Bible Society, the Missionary Society, the Tract Society, the Young Men's Christian Associations, and Temperance Societies; its constantly enlarging activities, and its living Churches in every land. Think of the combined power of all these creations of Christianity, and all deriving their vitality and efficiency from Jesus Christ! Invest these with voice and they would testify—"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour and glory, and blessing," Why have we a Bible? Because there is a Saviour to reveal. Why have we a Bible Society? Because man needs to know of the life, and love, and power of Jesus Christ, and the Bible is the infallible revelation of Him. Our text accounts for the existence of our own and of kindred Societies. "They are they which testify of me." Not because the Bible is a book of beautiful biography, of ancient history, of profound philosophy, of exquisite poetry, of abounding eloquence, and of unequalled literature, does the Bible Society send it forth to all lands and to all peoples. The Bible Society is not blind to the literary attractions of the Book. Its beauties of thought and style have often entranced the friends of the Bible Society, but they send it forth because it testifies of Christ, they know in sending it, that they are sending the desire of all nations, that they are sending light for the world's moral darkness, joy for the world's sorrow, hope for the world's despair, medicine for the world's healing, pardon for the world's guilt, holiness for the world's pollution, life for the world's death, life in Christ here, and life with Christ for ever. In the prosecution of this godlike purpose, the Bible Society is the friend of all and the enemy of none. Every mission-