

as an intellectual act. One's experience need not be very large to note that there are persons who believe with all their mind, but refuse to accept and embrace the truth with their will. Here may be noted a striking point of difference between human knowledge and divine faith. In the former, the mind simply believes and accepts the truth demonstrated; in the case of faith, it is not only the mind that acts in accepting the truth revealed, but the will takes it as a favour from God, that such a doctrine was revealed for its advantage as well as for the benefit of the world; and, therefore accepting it as a duty, it loves and embraces it.

It is not hard to see that grace from God is necessary to perform an act, such as we have been describing. Both the gift of faith and its exercise in act and habit, are the effects of divine grace. This grace, however, is never refused to any man, who makes use of the means to obtain it. These means are fidelity in conscience to the light that he has and to the duty of prayer to God to know His truth and will. By the honest practice of these means, within the reach of every man, sooner or later grace will come; and the faithful soul, grasping the fulness of divine revelation, makes its perfect act of faith in prophecy and in its fulfilment, "I believe;" and then, "a flood of light bursts around it not less, but greater, than that which flashed into existence when the fiat of omnipotence first broke the silence of eternity."

This is the light of faith,—the result of the grace of God enlightening the mind and moving the heart, and the good will of man co-operating with the divine action. It is this faith, "by which my just man liveth," which renders all the individual's efforts worthy of reward, and which supplies the motive for all the great works of Christian civilization. We have seen its doctrines underlying the two greatest features of our civilization — our treatment of children and women, the very essence of family life, and therefore the very synthesis of national life,—and, if we choose to continue our analysis, we will find like dogmas under its every other great work.