

into a means of revival of religion. Any one of these attitudes of modern scholarship to specific revivals of the ordinary type may possibly be justified. But we are not to-day thinking simply of a revival. Our task is not merely to fan the dying embers of a fire formerly burning brightly. Our Forward Movement includes vision and enlightenment, and guidance away from positions grown old and outworn, and from forms, venerable it may be with antiquity, beloved for their associations, but no longer suitable for the needs of the generations of to-day.

What then is the peculiar contribution of the theologian to a Forward Movement. To me it presents itself as nothing less than the description of that new and better land, in whose possibility humanity, having struck its tents, has shown its faith. The theologian, in so far as he is a pioneer, has made his painful pilgrimage from the security of the old forms of faith, through the fogs of scepticism, over the uncertain ground of new knowledge; he has, like Dante, found himself lost in the dark forest where there seemed to be neither path nor guide; his old landmarks, his old compasses have failed him; yet he has pressed on

"O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent,"

with, for the time being, only one conviction left, that truth is good and demands implicit loyalty. And, at last, he has found himself on a Pisgah height, and surveys a good land stretching out before him. Is not a strong necessity laid upon him to return and make his true report not only of the difficulties and dangers of the path, but of the good land to which it leads, to a generation which is more or less blindly groping, now here, now there, because it has quite made up its mind that it can no longer stand still, that it must go somewhere, but knows not whither?

I think of this Theological Movement as one which embraces all others, just because it is theological. It has to do with God, conceived of as the source of all being, the Father of mankind. I am convinced, and you, my dear Doc-