

The ear of faith will never cease to hear the echoes of the eternal song and the harpers harping with their harps. There is that within us by reason of which the Gospel will, from time to time, recall humanity from dreary atheism and pessimism, and preclude their final prevalence. And the more extreme the pessimism, the more vigorous will be the rebound into the arms of Him whose voice sounds evermore in our ears, saying, "Believe in God; believe also in Me." "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

This glorious city of the Apocalypse, this coming "Republic of God," may seem to our skeptical friends only a dream. I will not say, let me cherish it still although but a dream, but will rather say, that, while even as a dream, it has been more beneficent than the realities of skepticism, there is something incredible in the thought that such visions forever hover before us only to betray us at the last. All the lower instincts are presentiments of corresponding good; it is not hard to believe that these higher ones may have a similar validity and prophetic power. The need of the world is to so heed these aspirations and hopes as to turn the prophecy both of Scripture and the human heart into historic verity. And what has been done thus far is ample encouragement to mind the same things and walk by the same rule. Let those who boast of the triumphs of experimental science learn to read aright this experiment of the Gospel in moral and social progress, and they will find ample proof that Christianity is by far the best thing that has yet come into the world, from whatever source we may suppose it to have come. Even when we censure the Church we censure her from principles which she has preserved. In bearing witness against herself she bears witness for the Gospel.

CHRIST leads me through no darker rooms
Than He went through before;
He that into God's kingdom comes
Must enter by His door.
Come, Lord, when grace has made me meet
Thy blessed face to see;
For if Thy work on earth be sweet,
What will Thy glory be?