

The influence of Christianity on the character of men is under God owing, not to its moral teachings merely, but, in connection with these moral teachings, is owing to the facts and doctrines of Christianity. These give incalculable force to the moral teachings. As the result of Christian teachings, the actual historical fact is, that loving faith in our Heavenly Father and His Eternal Son has, in the case of millions of Christian men and Christian women in the last nineteen centuries, been a great and mighty power for good ; and it is a great and mighty power for good still ; and so, doubtless, will be for ever.

The faith of all believers in Christianity is not equally strong, nor is the obedience of all equally full. It is a doctrine of the Church to which I belong that, "no mere man since the fall is able in this life perfectly to keep the commandments of God, but doth daily break them in thought, word and deed." I believe that no important Christian denomination teaches the absolute and uninterrupted sinlessness of Christians, not of even the best of them. On the contrary, all Christian churches concur in holding that any Christian may be "overtaken in a fault," as St. Peter was when he denied his Master, and on other occasions. The like was the case with some Old Testament saints and worthies. But when a Christian has sinned he