

in which it is found. In the third place, as to the means of impressing this religion in the hearts of men. We have seen that it was by his life, that our Saviour, when on earth, made his way to the hearts of men. And to those to whom Christ entrusted his religion when he left the world, St. Paul applies what David so beautifully says of the orbs of heaven, that there was no speech — no language — their voice was not heard ; but their sound was gone out to all the earth, and their instruction to the end of the world. This must mean that they chiefly relied on the silent influence of character. Men saw their lives and pronounced them good. They saw that it would be well if others were like them. And thus, by what they were, as much as by what they said and did, they gained for their religion a welcome, and sent it forth triumphant and rejoicing, to regenerate and save the world. And do we not find in ourselves, if ever we look searchingly into ourselves, that the persons whose influence has done most to give us what measure of faithfulness we possess, have been, not men of talent, not men of energy ; — by them we have been struck and moved for a time ; but those who have done most in forming us, have been people, perhaps the most unpretending in the world, but having character, having wholeness, having a well-developed moral and spiritual nature, not excessive in any part, nor deficient in any part. They dwell, and their memories after them dwell, quiet images of the beauty of holiness, in the minds and hearts of those around them, inspiring the taste for excellence, and enabling them to understand its power.