

morality, is, "at bottom, but a discovery of words," the very expression itself being likely to change or to disappear in less than fifty years.

But it is really quite useless to go on enumerating examples of the efforts made to-day to generate a moral idealism and enthusiasm in men by objects and aims, any, or all, of which may be questioned by the modern intellect. The aim of morality must, somehow, be seen to be a universal aim, an aim that nobody can question without ceasing to be human. Country, and race, and neighbourhood, and civic reform, and the abolition of war, and the beauties of art, and the harmonies of the mystic reason, the knightly quests of the olden time, are all good enough in their way; and they are all part of the content, or the possible scope, of the moral ideal; but this ideal itself is not, and cannot be, constituted by any one of them, or by two or three of them taken together.

The only possible basis for morality, in other words, is not so much any kind of rational certainty as to the calculable effect or outcome of certain actions, as the simple fact that it is somehow within the power of man not to allow human conditions and situations to drift with circumstance; but to control, to some extent, their future development, or even to originate and sustain an order of things higher than the merely natural order. The Prince in our story, to be sure, had, in a sense, this very feeling, but he was still, so far as its guidance was concerned (and all feelings require to be guided), under the influence of belated and imaginative conceptions about himself and his order as the dispenser of all blessings to the lower classes, and of the kingdom of heaven as consisting in eating and drinking. The moral man, however, is a man who protests against all merely "spectator" or passive views of human activity and of the universe generally, and who has awakened to the consciousness of himself and other men as agents in the present, and as makers of the future of humanity. The old religions went too far in the direction of the worshipful or mystical