

*Vision* there will be, if the people, and particularly the leaders of the people, have faith in the conquering power of truth and confidence in its supreme mastery and ultimate triumph. "Lord Acton's view of history was largely that ideas, not men or events, made differences between one era and the next. *Free-will, transubstantiation, liberty and predestination* are the ideas that have made revolutions and poured human blood like water." Has not the idea of *self-determination*, launched by Woodrow Wilson, swept the world like a forest fire, irrepressible and insurmountable. Like dry timber, the nations and empires of Europe and Asia are still crackling with its burning flames.

Religious truth particularly has this conquering power, for it strikes at the very conscience of man. And it is ultimately in the human conscience that are born those decisions that rule the destinies and, at times, remake the map of the world. For religious truth is the anchor of the moral life of man, and therefore of nations. With it we find in the storm at sea the security of port. Without it the ship is tossed as a toy on the cross-current of conflicting thought and drifts with the ebb and flow of the tide of human passion.

Confronted, nowadays, with the enormous output of printed matter and its apparent wastage one is at times tempted to say with the doubtful Apostles: "To what purpose is this wastage?" Let us not forget the Master's parable. Some of the seed indeed,—too much of it!—will fall by the way-side, on the cold stones of apathy and indifference, among the thorns and briars of the cares of this world. Yet the seed is bound also to fall on well prepared, expectant soil. There God will give it growth and have it yield a hundredfold. The ultimate triumph of Catholic Truth rests on the explicit promise of the Master: "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away." When then the gloomy shadows of doubt creep around us, when the fires of our first enthusiasm are burning low, this vision of the world as a caravan that has struck its tents and is passing into the unknown, will steel