

escaping hell, . . . distinct from the concerns of this life, . . . what has to be done is to show men that the only test of the soundness of their doctrinal conceptions,—the only proof which will be admitted by the Judge at the Great Assize,—is the effect those conceptions of God have produced upon their dealings with men: ‘hereby we know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.’”

And the following passage gives his view of the kinds of presentation of religion which will and will not win the working classes,—

“I have long been under the influence of the ideas expressed by the ex-scavenger Mr. Solomon, that Christ was a liberal and a workman. I have no fears for the spread of Christianity among these men: these are they for whom it was sent, these are they for whom it is declared that ‘theirs is the kingdom of heaven.’ A Christianity taught by Pharisees, and illustrated by Sadducees, in purple and fine linen, has failed to reach their hearts. No wonder. And then men say, forsooth, Christianity won’t do now,—it does not satisfy the instincts of humanity. It is not Christianity, but Christians who are wanting.”

If anybody already engaged in such noble labours wants refreshment or stimulus, they will get it by only turning the pages of the volume of the “Letters.” They will come upon such sentences as these,—“I am warming to my work.”—“A roomful of dock-labourers will meet twice a week, after a hard day’s work, to hear me say what I can for the Gospel.”—“I am building a ragged school.”

“It has been rightly written of him,—

“By the lone wash of Australasian waves
His body rests, but his great spirit lives,
And in the hearts of those who knew him most
That spirit shall remain—it will not die!
His name and fame shall emulation prove,
And his remembered work a history.”

WALTER CURTIS.