

believe and as we believe it? We have no authority from Christ or anywhere in the New Testament for so doing. If one asks, as I have been asked, Must I accept the Westminster Confession or the Shorter Catechism in order to being admitted to membership with Christ? I say unhesitatingly, No, it is by no means necessary. There were true living Christians before the Shorter Catechism was ever written. There are thousands of true Christians to-day who have never heard of it. If one man says, I can't accept the Genesis account of Creation; another, I can't accept the doctrine of the Atonement or the theory of Inspiration as your church holds it; another, - can't accept the miracles of the Bible, am I to say, Then, you can't be a Christian? No. I know only too well the numerous and various phases through which all these doctrines have passed, not only in the history of the Church, but also in my own spiritual experience. A man may be ignorant of nearly every dogma and yet be a true Christian. To such let us sympathetically and kindly say: "Come and see"; come and see Jesus, who He is. Come and learn of Him. One thing lies beyond dispute. His is the grandest and the best life we know, and His the sublimest moral teaching the world has ever heard. Sit at His feet. Walk in His light. Do His will as far as you know it, as far as it commends itself to your reason and conscience; further light will dawn, fuller truth will be revealed. Do this and I have little fear of the issue. A sincere love and loyalty to Christ will make a man a Christian. The mere admission of the credibility or truth of the greatest facts and doctrines of Christianity may mean little or nothing. These must become spiritual factors and powers in our life. The Incarnation is little or nothing to us as mere doctrine, of value only in so far as it transforms us into Sons of God, makes us partakers of the Divine Nature. The Atonement as a mere doctrine is little or nothing to us, of value only in so far as it cleanses us from sin and makes us *at one* with God. The Resurrection as a mere doctrine is little or nothing to us, of value only in so far as it enables us to rise into newness of life, to value time by eternity and live here by the hope of the life hereafter.

And this let us never forget, that if God has given us a deeper faith and a higher knowledge, it is not that self-righteously we may despise or condemn others, but that we may lovingly teach them what God has taught us. If we have risen to greater strength of faith, it is that on us the weak may lean and be helped. If on us greater light has dawned, it is that we may lovingly clear away the mists that have gathered round the minds of others. Humility, sympathy, charity, are the Church's most powerful weapons, mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, and the evidence that arises from the loftier divine life of men who believe is the strongest of all arguments for the truth of the Christian faith. I am full of hope that the restlessness caused by modern thought will issue not in increased unbelief, but in a simpler,