

revealed in the Gospels : the eternal plan of salvation ; the gift of His only-begotten Son made by the Father to the world ; His death, freely undergone for the remission of sins ; justification by faith freely granted ; sanctification of believers through the Holy Spirit ; the coming of Christ, when He will make believers partakers of His glory by a resurrection similar in kind to His own.

This vast plan of God's love to us ; this mass, not of truths, but of Divine *acts*, past, present, and future, attested by revelations contained in the Scriptures, was the steadfast object of faith. If there was ever any doubt about anything, it never was about the reality of this great salvation and of its all-powerful efficiency. The object of faith appeared as sure and as fixed as God Himself. The doubts which could arise in a believer's heart would bear solely on his own sincerity and on the efficiency of his own faith. People would sometimes hesitate before they accepted for themselves favors of which they not only felt themselves unworthy, but for the experience of which they thought they lacked the necessary conditions. However, when the step was taken, when free salvation had been accepted, then the truth was at once spoken and acted upon—because they had believed “the Word.”

These wonders of Divine salvation, revealed to mankind not only by Holy Writ, but also to the soul of every believer by the Holy Spirit, lifted up the believer above himself. The assurance of his personal salvation became the anchor of his soul, “which entereth into that within the veil.” Hence he felt himself inseparably linked to the throne of grace for life and death. This has been the experience of thousands of souls embosomed in the Church.

What do we see now ? A great change has modified the spiritual atmosphere. If we have left a Palm Sunday behind us, many symptoms may cause us to anticipate the coming of a *Good Friday*. I will not express the dread of coming persecutions, although there is no lack of forerunning signs that such might occur. If the materialist tendency spreads more and more, if the claims of socialism grow harsher, the Church, which stands in the way of the dangerous exaggerations of this tendency—the Church will have to bear the brunt of its most violent attacks.

However, persecution is not the most dangerous enemy of the Church ; it may even happen that persecution becomes a quickening agent. Christianity's greatest peril grows out of its own bosom ; this danger consists in the slow and gradual neglect of the faith in the facts which have caused its birth and sustained it—that faith which, after periods of depression, produces sudden revivals of religion, such as the Reformation or the revival at the beginning of this century.

How has this change been brought about ? The revival and its religious outgrowth have undergone sharp and not unmerited criticism. Conversion was too often identified with intellectual belief ; the ethical influence of the professed doctrines was sometimes wanting, and the death-blow to self-love