

BOOK II

THE FATHER'S HOUSE

CHAPTER I

THE CONFLICT OF THE PHYSICAL AND THE MORAL PAGE 95

With the growth of a sense of sin the early animal delight in mere living vanished. We see in history that men who strove after righteousness easily embraced physical evil as a means to that end. But Jesus intended his salvation to end the opposition between moral and physical welfare.

CHAPTER II

THE USE OF SIN 103

Sin is a schoolmaster driving men to God.
Because it exists we are bound to believe that it has its place in God's purpose for man's development. But if we believe that it is God's will that we should sin, we part with common sense and all true religion.

CHAPTER III

THE USE OF PAIN 108

Pain is a schoolmaster driving men to God.
But if we hold God responsible for pain in any other sense than that in which he is responsible for sin, we part company with common sense and the doctrine of Jesus.
If we believe that God deals punitive discipline to men we shall do the same. As we are coming to see that the infliction of suffering does not produce reformation, we shall be compelled to dissociate it from the thought of God's will, and the war against all suffering will become as sacred as the war against sin.
History shows that only those nations have progressed that have distinguished between believing that God permits sin and believing that he wills it.
We must now distinguish between the belief that God permits suffering and the belief that it is God's will.