

difficult indeed to grasp ; we cannot be surprised if His followers were dazed and confused. We are yet dazed by its splendour, and we can only begin to understand it by recognising fully that the ethic that He taught was the one rule by which one society can conquer all other societies and become universal and permanent, the only rule by which fulness of life proceeds to fuller and deeper development in the only world we know.

Dante's poetic insight saw clearly the need for a perfect earth as part of God's scheme when he pictured the purified soul, having ascended the mount of Purgatory, pausing to realise earthly perfection in the earthly Paradise before it could enter the first sphere of heaven. Where his insight failed was in making the soul's purification express itself in negations. A negation is never splendid unless it is the mere by-product of a greater affirmation. The soul is purged by the exercise of positive benevolent activities, as poisons in the veins are best expelled, not by fasting, but by the exercise that oxygenates the blood.

To sum up. The thesis that the Creator in His creation is in part "despised and rejected, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," corresponds with the great Christian doctrine that it was by the compulsion of His inward union with God that Jesus accepted all that befell Him on account of His mission, and called upon His followers to make the same sacrifice. The belief that by God's method a free creation is in process of being perfected in its own course, and that earth shall be made, by the co-operation of man, an earth