

**"Change and decay in all around I see**

**O Thou who changest not, Abide with me?"**

The answer to these questions is given in various forms. That which appeals to me is this. God is the Infinite Source from Whom all things have proceeded. Man alone of created things is conscious of the Infinite, and yearns after it. He is in some sort akin to God, a divine spark is within him. But it often burns low, it is never a full white flame. Man ever seeks fuller communion with God. The greater souls, Psalmists, Prophets, and Poets have given the highest and deepest expression to what we dimly feel. And so we sing

As pants the hart for cooling streams  
When heated in the chase,  
So longs my soul for Thee, O God,  
And thy refreshing grace.

We love to quote Augustine. Our hearts respond to word and music of the Prophet's assurance,

"If with all your hearts ye truly seek me,  
Ye shall surely find Me  
Thus saith our God."

And it is ever the same need, the same longing of the soul for the Infinite Source from which it has come.

What name can we give to this Infinite Source to whom we feel ourselves akin, but the name of Father?

The Fatherhood of God, that is our fundamental doctrine, which springs directly from experience and is the expression of experience. Doubtless this seems to many a truism. This, they will say, is the very commonplace of Christianity. Do we not pray "Our Father" twice a day at least? Do we not constantly use the Lord's Prayer in Public Worship, and every kind of religious gathering? Yes, but has the Christian Church ever in actual thought and practice made this doctrine fundamental? Has it, or