

became steward. He preached, therefore, with faith, with conviction, vivid and vivific, and not simply as a possessed, and, so to speak, involuntary, mouthpiece for the Spirit of God.

Born of his conviction was that inextinguishable zeal which was a further characteristic of Paul as preacher. Paul's zeal was as tinder to his energy. The two together engendered an incomparable locomotive force lodged in him—like the enclosed and enkindled powder that bears the rocket on its aspiring parabola into the upper air. There was never another such an unresting embodiment as was Paul, of disinterested zeal in propagandism, enlisted on behalf of an apparently hopeless cause. When just consideration is given to all the conditions of Paul's case, his single-handedness, his nakedness of apparent weapon against such a conspiracy of hostile powers, his poverty in material resources of whatever kind, his physical ill-health and weakness, the arrests and imprisonments to which he was subject, the indignities, the cruelties, he suffered—when these things are duly considered, and over against them is placed the enormous, the yet unexhausted, the apparently inexhaustible success that he achieved, making the world and making history new, I confidently submit that no parallel to Paul can be found among men. I thus speak counting out of calculation for the moment the supernatural coefficient that multiplied the results of Paul's activity. I am far from ignoring that supernatural coefficient. But, remembering it well and according to it much, I still reckon Paul's personal achievement, quality and quantity both considered, something that surpasses what can fairly be credited to any other individual human force working in history. Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar, Napoleon Bonaparte, are not worthy to be named in the comparison. And it was the extraordinary, the amazing *vis viva*, pure energy set on fire of zeal, in Paul, that, exceptional divine assistance being for the moment left out of the account, should perhaps mainly be esteemed the secret of his power. Such a heart-beat of force, forever equal, and a little more than equal, to its need, as throbs in Paul, like the pulse of a great ocean steamer's engine making her whole hulk tremble! It might seem that the energy thus attributed to Paul belonged to the man, rather than to the preacher. But the man and the preacher are always inseparable. And what differences preachers one from another, with respect to the total volume of influence that they finally exert, is, I am persuaded, as much as anything the original endowment of energy which they put into their work. Paul's prodigious energy as a man was not only an indispensable, but a very important, element in his power as a preacher.

I have already alluded to the advantage belonging to Paul in the possession of an intellect thoroughly trained and furnished for the work that it had to do. Paul had thought long and deeply; and the quality that only long and deep thought can give to a man's intellectual product, is everywhere recognizable in Paul's writing. We are