

THE VISIONS OF YOUTH

The first is the need of personal character. The general corruptibility of officers in one country, the accepted debauchery of the young in another, the general taint of fraud in the commerce of a third, or those combinations of such evils in some degree which all must acknowledge : these must be treated as giants in whom our young chivalry must recognize the true enemy. And these have behind them the softness, the lack of restraint, the impatience of hardness, the ' looseness ' of living (to use a word in something larger than its ordinary sense) of which we have had too much reason to be conscious. Will the discipline of the war and the hard times for all which will follow it start a life less unworthy of the Christian name, and shall we say, more true to the nobility of human nature than to its self-indulgence and self-will ?

' He went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast salt in there, and said, Thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters.'

The second thing is the significance of Christ. Never, perhaps, has there been a more resolute, various, and truly questing search for this than in the last two generations. Nor upon a matter so inexhaustible can we afford to be too critical of each other's ways of inquiry. Much of the quest, orthodox or unorthodox, has gone but a little way, has acquiesced too readily in some shallow or in some mechanically accepted solution. Meanwhile, how many have passed by, not only without searching the problem, but without knowing that there was a problem to search ?