

accomplishment of a predetermined end. It is by a divinely implanted stimulus that the universe continually struggles to attain its goal and to realize its ideal. God's hand is felt in every forward movement, however slight, and every new moral idea bringing man nearer his true goal may be said to be a revelation from God, whatever the particular channel by which it has come. To Him belongs all the glory of it, since it is the outcome of His gracious design for the ultimate perfecting of the race.

It is wholly in harmony with this principle that we should recognize in some movements more than in others a special divine impulse which gives them a peculiar claim upon our attention and regard. It is equally in harmony with this principle, and only what we might expect, to find that a succession of such special impulses should follow one particular line. Here, as everywhere else, the rule is that to him that hath shall be given; that is, if he uses what he has with any reasonable measure of fidelity. Each of the great nations of the world has made some contribution of its own to the race's progress. One has given its letters, another its art, a third its mechanical inventions, a fourth its science, a fifth its civil organization. Some one more than any other had to lead in the education of moral ideas. It was no accident that this proved to be the Jewish people. Inferior to others in most respects, they had that kind of moral earnestness and tenacity which fitted them to be the recipients of divine ideas on the right conduct of life, and to spread these ideas with zeal among the more laggard peoples around them. What was practically of even greater importance, they were enabled to attain that conception of the character of God which furnished the needful motive for living up to their ideas.

It is perfectly true that when one reads their history, as told by their own religious leaders, it does not leave the impression of a people specially faithful to the highest ideals. The constant complaint is of their unfaithfulness to the national conception of right conduct and defection from the national religion. But it is now coming to be recognized that in all evolution, degeneration is the rule for the great