

Having passed out of childhood we have passed out of our idealism into a dull, bald, matter of fact realism. We are no longer caught up in spirit and charmed with a sense of a world greater than our physical eyes behold. We have brought the world into focus and see everything in clear perspective. We have not fulfilled the promise of youth and developed with the years into a sense of the higher spiritual beauty and meaning of life. We are too firmly planted on this earth. We can talk learnedly enough and speak warmly enough of revelation, inspiration, predestination, atonement. But in our zeal for orthodoxy and to defend the faith once delivered we have failed to develop in us the personal experience of spiritual realities. It is true that unlike the child we no longer bump our heads when we walk abroad. But it is likewise true that we are painfully calculative and matter of fact. 'Tis true the child hasn't learned to compute distance and time but he enjoys the sweet compensation that he sees everything large and of perpetual beauty and interest. And in his own way he is an heir of the kingdom of faith. It is such faith of which our generation stands sadly in need. Our agriculturist wants faith. His world has become centred in his sowing and reaping, his harrows and ploughs, his cattle and sheep, his hay and grain. In his eagerness to grow his crops and make his living his eyes are steadily fastened on the ground that he tills and his world is become no larger than his farm. In this noble calling men are in want of faith, vision, idealism ; so that they may enjoy some charm in their lives and not narrow their affections to their day's toil. Our men of business are in need of faith. Their world has narrowed itself into a bald realism. Conscious of a keen competition or inflamed by the glory of accretion, they have become over eager in the matter of their buying and selling and have taken upon them the colour of their surroundings. Their kingdom is scarcely larger than the rags or leather or other produce which they handle. Business men want faith whereby they may realize that this world is a place in which not merely to make bargains and develop the interests of trade but to evolve as well the powers and faculties of the soul.