

THE REMOVING OF MOUNTAINS

upholding the universe under the aspects of Life and Beauty, of Joy and Wisdom and Love. After a short time there came to him—what he at first regarded as a delusion—the sense of a response from the Unseen. So attractive were the momentary flashes of this experience that he cherished them, but for months only as one might cherish a delightful dream; and it was his friends, not he, who first observed that his pessimisms were turning into optimisms, the callosities of his heart into sympathies. Roused by this observation, he began to allow himself to address the Divine Being, always under the names of those attributes which embodied his conception of the Highest. Devotion remained with him a fleeting experience, never conventional, never prolonged; but before long he was to the front in his locality in pressing every reasonable reform, and men in trouble or in doubt liked to work shoulder to shoulder with him, and felt their faith in humanity revive and also their hope in God. Perhaps the most salient characteristic he came to possess was a certain ingenuity or inventiveness in beneficent enterprise. If this could be the effect on a life professedly godless of the effort to correspond with the Divine environment, may we not believe that lives steeped in prayer might be raised to a much higher power by an enlarged and purified conception of the Divine activity?

The pantheist says that God is manifest in all; the Christian, that God is manifest in the good. In the degree in which we understand the Divine activity we know what the good is and how to attain it. The knowledge may be wordless, but the attainment declares it. In so far as we work with God we go forward to the highest good—in all statecraft, in all art, in all labour, in all play, in all prayer. The converse is true, if in any aspect of life we are on the wrong track and arrive at what is evil, it is because we do not understand the good and how to attain it—do not understand God.

Let us try to realize what it would be to look out upon the world in the light of Divine love in which there