

THE DIVINE CHALLENGE

and dead, and says, "There is none good but one, that is God." You would have supposed that any words spoken by one so insignificant would have been wholly lost; it is natural to suppose so. What is there briefer in its influence than the spoken word; and this youth never wrote a single sentence, never did what the humblest prophet or philosopher did to perpetuate His message, never took the least precaution to preserve His teaching. Yet that teaching spread with miraculous rapidity. He Himself had said that His words were spirit and life, and so it proved. Whispered at first in the lowly places of the earth, spoken presently in the market places, temples and palaces; prescribed as heresy, hated as blasphemy; these words spread and everywhere they struck the note of a new life. Into the deep blackness of the pit where society lay and rotted there came a ray of light; over the sterile waste of human thought there blew the wind of life. At length the hour came when the old was utterly outworn; Rome fell, and great was the fall of it; but in the same instant it was discovered that a new power had taken its place, and Christ filled the throne which Cæsar had abdicated. The dust of conflict cleared away, and behold the Cross shone upon the Capitol. The thoughts of Christ about God became the supreme truths on which men based all their hopes and aspirations. The Fatherhood of God — a true sovereignty of intelligence, law, and love — be-