

marvelous words of those renowned writers. He saw the marble breathe under the chisel of Phidias, and the paintings by those immortal artists—the grapes of Attica, and the birds of Attica came and pecked at them. But he saw that culture, culminating under a sunny sky, under the most favorable circumstances, was not the great reformatory force indispensable to the recovery of mankind. He turned his eye to Rome. He saw what the sword had done: nay, he beheld what law had done, law teaching the Emperor on his throne, teaching the soldier in his camp, teaching the peasant in his cottage. He saw law enthroned in all its brilliancy, all its power, but he turned away from all these reformatory forces, and he said: “I must take the citadel of men, I must ask permission to go into the heart of man, I must invite him to place his will subject to my will, to permit me to quicken his conscience, to enthrone me in his affections, to live for me in his life. I must ask him to fill his days with charity towards men, with devotion towards God. Nay, I must ask him to permit me to transform him into myself, so that each man shall be a living, walking, breathing, thinking, loving, working Christ.” This is the great reformatory force. Let us praise the church as an organization; let us praise the Sunday school as an auxiliary force; let us thank God for the potency of the press, secular and religious. Let us rejoice in our schools of learning and in our halls of justice. Let us send up a doxology to-day for civilization in all its component parts, in all its elements of power, but let us remember that he who was wiser than the wise turned away from all these things. His eye glanced over the race. He said: “Humanity can rise to these things without my aid.” Some master-mind is yet to give the world a simple, direct, new definition of civilization. That definition can not be found in our lexicons. It is not recorded in cyclopedias. I do not hesitate to say that humanity may reach a civilization of the highest intellectual culture, where art shall revel in glory, where government shall be wise and paternal, where the sciences shall be advanced, where all the elements of our civilization may exist without the great primal factor, namely the Holy Ghost upon the human heart.

#### CONCLUSION.

What now is the conclusion? What is the reformatory force of Christianity? It is the salvation of the sinner. It is the conversion of men. The momentous question that Christ put to the world was: “What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” “I have come to seek and save those that are lost.” His great condition is: “Ye must be born again.” Oh, ministers of God, everything else is