

who appeared before him as an anxious enquirer, or he would not have tried to heal the wounds of this daughter of Zion so slightly. He did not comprehend that he had before him a woman of such intellect, emotional force, sincerity and courage, that if she was not for Christ, everyone would soon be made to know that she was against Him. This spiritual physician had a noble opportunity of exercising his skill—and much skill and knowledge he had—but he did not take in the situation or he misunderstood the malady, and failed with a great and disastrous failure.

Mrs. Besant's next experiment in this line was even worse. Her dying mother wished to take the communion, but would not unless in company with her now skeptical daughter. The latter was willing, but would not without acknowledging her views, and thus she had been refused by two clergymen. She then visited Dean Stanley, and was received with a kindness and sympathy which she afterwards remembered with gratitude. The views which this famous author expressed were such as the following: Conduct was more important than theory; all were Christians who recognized and tried to follow the moral law. On the question of the absolute Deity of Christ, he laid but little stress. "Jesus was in a special sense the Son of God; but it was folly to jangle about words with only human meanings when dealing with the mysteries of Divine existence. The holy communion was never meant to divide from each other hearts that are searching after the one true God. Remember, our God is the God of truth, and therefore the honest searcher for truth can never be displeasing in His eyes," etc. He kindly consented to that which she sought, visited her mother, and gave the communion to mother and daughter. She concluded, however, that his religion was scientific, and that his emotions, not his intellect, kept him in the Church of England.

Perhaps no treatment, even the most judicious, would have produced any change in this case. Perhaps there is to some minds an irresistible fascination in doubt and the changes which it brings in its train. The skeptical explorer is, by the passing away of old things, brought into new scenes, new views, and new relations to men and things. But assuredly the procedure of these spiritual advisers was not calculated to improve the char-