

the fairest among the children of men, and a human heart may therefore love Him, the pure, the gentle Son of man, the meek Sufferer, without quite understanding and quite embracing Him. This love also is genuine as far as it goes, but it must lead beyond itself. To it too. The word for it is: Onwards!

Yes, onwards to the perfect love of God, to love towards all whom He loves. Even towards those whom we know not. Love desires and learns to know; as love increases so does knowledge, until at the time of perfection love and knowledge will happily embrace all who dwell under the sceptre of Christ, upon the new earth.

And the lost also?

On earth I was much occupied with the question, "Whether there would not at last come a time when the fires of hell would have burnt out, and the souls of the lost, purged and purified by suffering, be brought to the one great flock of the one Shepherd." Your father told me that this hope was shared by many earnest persons, and that it had at least nothing in common with the weakly expectation of those who conceive of heaven as the place where all who have lived on earth will continue their lives in peace and unmolested by any troubles. But even on earth the objection struck me: "Would God, like a weak father, have only threatened eternal condemnation, and could His Son, who manifested to us the love of God, and frequently spoke of the outer darkness and the everlasting fire, have been mistaken?"