

## 16 The Message of the Disciples of Christ

there would have been no occasion for such merciless assaults upon creeds and ecclesiastical authorities.

But that need not be so again. One of the mottoes of scientific advance clearly expresses nature's law: *Natura non facit saltus*—nature does not take leaps. Let the law of progress work and its advance will be as gentle as the growth of the grass beneath our feet or the appearing of the stars in the sky. These are days of calm thought, for we are moving amid great crises. Flowers are growing and human sympathies are breaking out of their accustomed boundaries like opening petals out of the rosebud. We are living in a new atmosphere, new because it is another day. Yesterday was good enough for us when we were in it, but it is not good enough for us to-day to go back into it to live, unless the Roman Catholic oppression of the sixteenth century and the credal slavery of the eighteenth century are better than the freedom of the twentieth century. However, with those who prefer yesterday over to-day, I have no quarrel, but God is opening around us the pages of nature's commentary to remind us of the higher paths, where love is law and peace will be attained through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let me, at the outset, attempt to correct two erroneous impressions regarding the Disciples. First, let me say that the message of the Dis-