

as of war. They exist not in peace, as of old. They are condemned; they are met by the free press and the free pulpit. Aged men lift up their trembling hands, and pray that they may be banished out of the sight of heaven and earth. Little children early learn to lisp their names with horror, and to shrink from their touch as from a serpent. So it is with intemperance, and slavery, and excess of every kind, and injustice of every degree. Christianity, after being preached and believed for so many centuries, as a religion of fear and of force, is coming to be received more and more as a religion of love. The Jupiter of mere power, the Mars of violence, the Venus of sensual indulgence, and Bacchus the rioter, are moving out of men's hearts, to make room for the incoming of the Father of love, of Christ the pure and gentle, and the Holy Spirit of righteousness and truth. The star of Bethlehem is rising higher in the moral firmament, and governing more and more, by its heavenly attraction and gravitation, the ebb and flow of human society. Here, also, "when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part will be done away."

3. Christianity is, finally, progressive in *its practical influence on life and character*. This follows as an inference from what goes before. If its ideas are slowly received in their whole length and breadth and depth, and its sentiments gradually felt by the heart in all their transforming life, then of course conduct and character come even behind what men think and feel, because their thoughts are often indistinct, and their feeling fluctuating and short-lived. The long divorce between religion and goodness is coming to an end. The Christian world are opening their eyes to see that we must show our faith by