

fell and since have fallen, and received their share of the guilty partnership in this life. This temptation of our Saviour, if meditated on as it should be, will give every person in the world sufficient thought for a lifetime. If properly understood it would enable us to account for the state of the world that was swallowed up by the Deluge; it would enable us to account for the populous and flourishing cities which once existed and whose ruins are now uncovered by the spade of the archaeologist; it would enable us to account for the civilizations that are little more than memories; it would enable us to account for the political-religious upheaval of the sixteenth century, and the multitudinous consequences of that event; it would enable us to account for the eighteenth and the nineteenth century surrender of Christianity to plutocracy, when Christians essayed to serve both God and Mammon at the same time; and finally, it would enable us to account for the awful state of the world to-day.

I have said that when Lucifer fell he did not lose his intelligence and power; and man would be in a bad way indeed if he had not a stronger power than Satan to call on for aid. As Adam's fall consisted in disobeying God and trying to make himself equal to the Most High, we, to counteract that disobedience as far as we can, must acknowledge God's omnipotence and our dependence on Him by asking Him for all spiritual and temporal necessities. If Christianity be true, this is the essential duty of man; but it is just the duty that the great majority of men and nations refuse to perform. It follows, then, that so far as this world is concerned the kingdom of Satan is more extensive than the kingdom of Christ; and this gives us the explanation of all, or nearly all, our troubles and misfortunes.

And now as to the credibility of Christianity. When our Lord, the founder of Christianity, was on this earth, He said to those who doubted Him, "If you do not believe me, believe My works." His works were entirely beyond the power of man, and were performed to prove His divinity. I know that I am safe in saying that the miracles of Jesus would be accepted as proved by any court of justice in the civilized world, capable of hearing evidence and weighing its value. Moreover, it will, I think, be admitted even by those who deny or doubt His divinity, that Jesus was the most honourable, upright and truthful man that ever lived. And He declared Himself to be God. He said, "The Father and I are one;" and again, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and on earth;"

and further, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." No merely human lips could utter such expressions as these. Therefore, if the Bible is an inspired record of those events, or is even authentic history, the position of the Christian is impregnable.

Furthermore, while Christ was on this earth as man, He gathered around Him a number of ordinary men whom He daily instructed and finally formed into a body corporate, or church, passing on to it the commission He had received from the Father. He told it that He would Himself be with it all days, even to the consummation of the world, and in addition would send the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, to be its companion and guide it unto all truth while time would endure. Again I say that if the Bible is not a book of fables these promises were made by God, and are as enduring as God Himself—"Heaven and earth shall pass away before My word shall pass away." Hence it inevitably follows that that Church must be in the world and functioning to-day with all the powers which God committed to it, and which are necessary for the proper performance of its work. God instructed that Church to teach every human creature on earth, and commanded all men to hear it. Hence it follows that He would not and could not allow it to apostatize and lead men astray. He would, if necessary, use His omniscient power to prevent such an occurrence. Individual members led by Satan might fall away, might in fact do anything that bad men could do, but Jesus, because He was and is God, would, under the circumstances, take care of the corporate teaching body.

Some persons say that Christianity is and has been a failure. Other persons say it has never been tried. Both statements are at best but part truths. When Christ was born the Roman Empire, which then embraced practically the inhabited world, though at peace was sunk in abominable iniquities. Two-thirds or three-fourths of the people were slaves to the others. Possessing no rights of their own, they had to submit to the injustices, the cruelties, and the vices of their masters. In three or four hundred years a tremendous change for the better took place. It was brought about entirely by the Christian Church, though she had to live for the most part of that time in the bowels of the earth. During that time she absorbed and took to herself nearly everything that was meritorious in Roman civilization. When in the fifth and sixth centuries the empire was overthrown by the barbarians of the North, the Church had to undertake their civilization