

God's hand in history. For other revelations men have sought vainly hitherto ; and reason would that we should abandon a quest that inevitably will terminate in disappointment, if not in despair. This is the plain outcome of the investigation. Dr. Martineau hopes by this route to lead men of education, knowledge, and thought, to cordial reconciliation with religion. But another aspect of the question forces itself upon us. If the case presented in this volume were proved, the result might be altogether different from the anticipation. We should have to ask whether the god of this representation could be *our* God. Could men believe in His righteousness and beneficence? Could they learn to return love for love? To say that we should begin to doubt God's love to us is immeasurably to understate the fact. We should never have begun to credit it. A God at so vast a distance from us, who did not care enough for His creatures to speak to them, who left us in dim uncertainty as to His very being, could hardly receive personal homage and devotion. We should feel that we had not been justly dealt with, that the inherent rights of moral and intellectual beings had been disregarded, that, in fine, we had not "a faithful Creator." From the intolerable positions Dr. Martineau would have us to take up, most minds would seek refuge in scepticism or agnosticism. At any rate, the contrast between the god which this volume commends to us and the God who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, the God whose Holy Spirit witnesses with our spirits that we are sons of God ; between the coldly silent deity and the Father who has words of love and warning and command for His children, there is a contrast that exceeds our thought. If the emotions and the sense of need have ought to do with the choice of a Supreme Object of worship, assuredly they will affirm of Him whom the Christian Scriptures declare, "THIS is *our* God : we have waited for Him : we will rejoice and be glad in *His* salvation."

In proof of the existence of a personal God, and of the reality of *His* self-revelation to men, Dr. Martineau repeatedly adduces the saintly aspirations and character of eminent