

100 THE EVIDENCE OF EXPERIENCE

condition, the moral ingredient? It was lacking, and therefore the appeal to experience was disallowed. 'Thou art a false prophet,' was his lordship's reply, 'and a lying knave. If the Lord God had sent thee, it would have been to the Attorney General, for He knows that it belongeth not to the Chief-Justice to grant a *nolle prosequi*, but I, as Chief-Justice, can grant a warrant to lay a lying knave by the heels.'

The test of the argument then is pragmatic: it must work. The experience to which appeal is made must be actual and verifiable, not subjective and personal but objective and demonstrable. Thus conditioned, it is the surest of all arguments, and it bears powerfully on the question of the historicity of the Evangelic Jesus. ✓

You remember that principle which our Lord is reported in the Fourth Gospel to have enunciated to the Jewish rulers when they were disputing about His teaching in the court of the Temple: *

The appeal
sanctioned
by Jesus.

'My teaching is not Mine, but His that sent Me. If any man willeth to do His will, he shall come to know (γνώσεται) of the teaching,

* John vii. 16, 17.