

wonder not so much at our blindness of sight, as at our slowness to act.

But it will be said, the Churches are moving. Consider the Forward Movement, and its revelation of the vitality that still resides within the organized Churches. Even the most sanguine are astonished at the universality as well as the generosity of the response to its appeal. And now, encouraged and stimulated by this evidence of the confidence of the people in the Churches, the more important and more enduring part of the Forward Movement, its efforts for a general and strong revival of religion, is about to be undertaken by all the Churches with courageous zeal. "Speak unto the people that they go forward" is the cry.

It is a splendid rally. But what does "Forward" mean to us? Whither are we going? What is the vision that shall guide our action? In what direction lies our Promised Land? How shall we rally all the people to our cause? What is our spiritual message to the men of science, to the statesmen, to the universities, to the great world of commerce, to the men of capital and to the men of labour? Does not almost everything depend upon the answer we give to these questions? Have we realized how new our age is? How far separated in science, in thought, in point of view from that Reformation period which is now one of the past ages? It is in connection with these questions that my gravest misgivings arise. To me it seems—I trust I may be wrong—that scarcely any individuals, or corporate bodies are even asking, still less seriously grappling with them. To enter upon a Spiritual Forward Movement without thoroughly considering some answer to such questions, appears to me to be a courting of failure.

Of one thing I am convinced, and I think you, my dear Principal, will herein agree with me, that an old-fashioned revival, which has for its inspiration a theology untouched by modern thought, is doomed to worse than failure. Given a large organization, given the apparent enthusiasm of multitudes, given the effectiveness of a huge choir and a great volume of singing, given all those conditions for