

## THE REVELATION AND THE RECORD.

The Revelation is to be carefully distinguished from the Record. The former is the substratum of the latter. The one is material, the other formal. The essential factor of the Revelation is the great supernatural Fact of the Divine Interposition for salvation. First, we have the historic preparation for this Fact, of which the Old Testament is the record. Then we have the Fact itself, with the Gospels as its record. Finally, we have the Fact organizing itself into faith, life, history, force, the Church with its ministries and ordinances, of which the record is found in the Acts and Epistles. The Revelation is thus Christocentric. The Record is for the same reason Christocentric. Christ is the sum and scope of each; the Alpha and the Omega alike of Salvation and of Scripture. The Written Word is the counterpart of the Incarnate Word. The message of the one is the message of the other.

## THE OBJECT OF THE RECORD : GENERIC.

It follows that the great generic object of the Revelation, and the great generic object of the Record are one and the same—SALVATION. The mission of the Incarnate Word becomes the mission of the Written Word. The Record is to make the Revelation available for all who need it. The Revelation is a Divine Interposition to save; the Record is designed to make that Interposition effectual for all men, in all places, and in all times. The generic mission of the Book is therefore none other than the generic mission of the Fact—to save. The idea that the Bible is first of all, and chiefly a *formula fidei*, a rule of intellectual faith, a creed-manual simply, is a misleading and mischievous error. The impartation of knowledge is but the necessary means to the Divine purpose of Redemption. "The LIFE was the LIGHT of the world." The *Light* centres in the *Life*. The sacred writings have power indeed to make wise, but "wise unto salvation." Scripture does not accomplish its final perfect end until it secures man's salvation. The essential, decisive test of its Divine efficiency is not its teaching function, but its saving function. To exalt the former—all-important as it is—above the latter, is to put the means above the end, the food above the life, to obscure the true conception of evangelical faith, and to wrest the use of Scripture from the paramount vital end for which it exists, and so to limit its power in the accomplishment of its divine mission.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTS OF THE RECORD.

The specific objects for which Scripture is given also grow out of its relations to the Revelation which it embodies. These may be briefly stated as follows :

1. To perpetuate, so far as a record can do so, the living and life-giving power of the great Facts of Redemption. These great Facts, and more especially the Incarnation, Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension of Christ,