

with unswerving perseverance when reward is small and applause silent, when our noblest thought is misinterpreted and our best effort is misunderstood; to accept it as our reward that we have led some to see that their little world is not exactly God's great universe and that the measurements of the spiritual world are very high and very deep; in other words, to make religion purer and more thoughtful is the aim of the true teacher. This demands courage as well as constancy, courage to differ from the current standard, to refuse to bow down at the altar of average opinions, and make a god of shallow conventionality. It means to have boldness without impudence, sternness without censoriousness, authority without dogmatism, tenderness without effeminate gush. These are prophetic qualities still attainable by the man who lives near to God and lives for his fellow-men. The Church needs many gifts to minister to her varied life, but without prophetic men she cannot live at all in any valid sense; without men inspired and inspiring she declines into a mere machine, and a machine can never represent the living Christ. Her work is still to present a lofty thought of God, and to preach the religion of humanity, the religion of the Cross. The highest product of her life is not in splendid buildings or gorgeous ceremonies, but in the lives of men and women who recognize that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ moves through all spheres, and that self-sacrifice is the law of the highest life. We are thankful for all central truths that great thinkers have proved and poets sung, but a hungry