

thinly-veiled unbelief, springs from want of thought, from neglect of that painstaking investigation which so serious a question as the Divine authority of the teaching of Scripture regarding life and duty and holiness should receive at the hands of every fair minded-man. What is wanted to counteract this tendency among a certain class of thinkers to be found in Christian Churches at present is to show more clearly and fully from the pulpit that the essential truths of Scripture are the goal to which the highest and best reason has been struggling ineffectually in all ages, and that they develop in those who incorporate them into their intellectual and spiritual nature the healthiest and most robust and attractive character.

Some, again, are influenced to break loose from the faith through intellectual pride. They imagine that it is indicative of intellectual freedom to discard beliefs which have come down from a remote past in favour of the advanced thought of our time. But advanced thinking is not always correct thinking; and the new religious ideas which are bidding for the suffrages of mankind are in many cases only the resurrected forms of thought which were once arrayed against the faith delivered to the saints, but which were long since gibbeted and buried and all but forgotten. They have been set forth in modern literary dress, and are captivating and enslaving those whose weakness is a desire to be regarded advanced thinkers. I will not say one word to discourage you from keeping abreast of the intellectual tide that is every day reaching a higher point, but I ask you to remember that true progress, genuine development, fruitful evolution in knowledge, growth of mind and heart, is not attained by ignoring, or forgetting, or despising, truths which have been the strength and stay of humanity, which have inspired nations with a new life and transformed barbarism into civilisation, but in holding reverently to them, while at the same time gladly accepting any new light which may bring out their intrinsic grandeur and value more clearly. Let our progress be what it may, if it be real progress, we shall never outgrow the teaching of Scripture which is adapted not to one age only but to every age. It is ever fresh, and it as fully meets the needs of the human heart to-day as it did when the Apostles went forth proclaiming it to be the only remedy for a despairing pagan world, and on all sides men eagerly accepted it and hope kindled their eyes with joy.

Others give up the faith that they may escape its restraints upon their sins. Its spirit is a loud rebuke against unholy living and wrong-doing. Its