

## In the Hour of Silence

### *The Higher Life.*

"First that which is natural, afterward that which is spiritual." We begin our existence with no conscious spiritual life, but the business of living is to take on this spirituality. First that which is natural, good enough in itself, but passing and ephemeral, the soil out of which the spiritual springs up and grows into completeness. This natural belongs to us only for a brief interval and then becomes the property of other individuals and other generations. But it is easy to forget the passing nature of the earthly and hard to properly value the heavenly.

Sense and appetite and desire, the natural expressions of the physical, press in upon us at all times. But we have to seek diligently that we may find and grow up into the spiritual. It is true, we live and move and have our being in the All Spirit, God, yet we need ever to cultivate our soul life to keep it sensitive and responsive to His never ceasing pressure upon us, if we are to know Him and live in Him.

The natural life lays its foundations and sets up its standards in the realm of the things that are seen. But the stress and the storms of life come; time and death lay their all levelling touch upon these things and they vanish into dust, leaving us aghast before the ruins of all we have lived for.

In the higher life, where the soul is ever alert and attuned to the all pervading Christian Spirit, we lay our foundations and set up our standards in Him. There we see that the law of the natural life is change, and each new change, even the final transformation, Death, leaves the spiritual life fuller and richer than it was before. What a difference! For the natural man, change and decay and death mean total defeat and infinite loss; for the spiritual man, "All things work together for good," and life goes on to ever higher heights of peace and joy.

### *Prayer.*

O Ever Present, All Present Spirit, known to us by many names, but best and fullest by the dear name of Father, have mercy upon us and lead us through the changing forms of the natural life into the abiding realities of the spiritual. We are like little children taking the things of sense for the abiding and the real, laying our foundations on them and setting up our standards by them. So we are ever beset before and behind with uncertainty and fear and loss. Pity us and forgive us. Open our eyes and make our hearts pure that we may see God and know ourselves one with Him. Take away the sin that blinds us and puts a barrier between our souls and Thee and in all the coming days set our affections first and forever upon the things that are spiritual, so shall the dear natural minister to our souls and reveal Thy beauty and Thy goodness.—Amen.