

The most favorable estimate of the condition of the Irish masses at this time leaves much to be desired. They were sunk very low in barbarism. Though professing to be ardent Catholics they robbed and slew without mercy the men of such ships of the Armada as were wrecked upon their shores, regardless of the fact that the Spaniards were at war with England chiefly for the suppression of Protestantism. Sidney in reporting his military operations says it is not worth while to encumber his letters by telling how many "varlets" he killed. He seemed to have no more consideration for them than if they were so many wild beasts, and yet Sidney was accounted one of the most refined men of his time. Even the

Christianity as exemplified in Jesus Christ himself is more than a belief, more than dogma, more than a series of rules of conduct. It introduces a new element into life, not new of course in the sense that it had been previously non-existent, but only in the sense that it is not to be found in the other great systems. The latter relied upon reason, whereas the base of Christianity is faith. Faith is a word with many meanings, but in the sense of which it is here employed it signifies the recognition of the spiritual as superior to the physical. Aristotle, who represented the most advanced type of pre-Christian philosophy taught that the Prime Mover or First Cause was beyond the touch of humanity. Christ taught, and by his acts demonstrated, that by the exercise of what is called faith, humanity may come closely in touch with the Divine, and may employ what may be called the divine will for human purposes. Plato taught the supremacy of thought over matter; claiming, indeed, that thought alone was real and permanent, and that matter is a mere temporary expression of it. Christ demonstrated in fact what Plato sought to prove by logic. Ancient philosophy seemed unable to grasp the thought of a spiritual life; Christ taught that there is the possibility of such a life both here and hereafter. He opened before mankind a field of new and limitless possibilities. In other words Christianity, if accepted as something more than a mere formula, is a vital and effective principle, whereby

It would be impossible in the space available here to give even a resume of the principles laid down by this extraordinary man, and exceedingly difficult, even in a great space, to present them in popular language so as to make easy reading. One feature of his philosophy may be mentioned, a feature which seems self-evident enough to us now, but does not appear to have

Meantime Penelope was in a sad plight. Numerous suitors have been long encamped in her son's halls, and have lately become uproariously importunate. Penelope had put them off upon one pretext or another for a long time. But at length she promised them that she would choose one from among them when she had finished weaving a winding sheet for Laertes. All day she sat at her loom and at night just as diligently she unraveled her work of the day. Three years went by before this ruse was discovered, for at the end of that time one of the waiting-maids explained the deception to the suitors. Then they pressed Penelope so hard for an answer that it almost seemed that she must give way before their fierce pleadings, and leave that "home of my wedded years, exceeding fair filled with all the goods of life, which even in dreams methinks I shall remember."

"Once," he said, "I saw a Dakota farmer's family prostrated with grief. The women were weeping, the dogs were barking, the children were squalling, and the tears ran down the farmer's cheeks as he hitched up his twenty-mile team and drove off."

"Where was he going?" I asked.

"He was going half-way across the farm to feed the pigs," said the Dakotan.

"Did he ever get back?" I asked.

"It isn't time for him yet."