

were starved for lack of offerings ; not altogether because Christian or philosophic doctrines prevailed widely ; but rather on account of the total indifference of the people to their ancient mythology : for even if it ever had symbolized the truth, its meaning was now forgotten ; and even so far back as the time of Cicero, had become totally unintelligible to the learned, as well as to the multitude. It was useless therefore, and wanted but a slight impulse from without to overthrow it. But to the philosopher who was in earnest in his pursuit of this truth, buried under the rubbish of time, the doctrine of Christ afforded it : there he found all that the master minds whom he honored had taught and hoped ; but he found it simplified, purified, and confirmed by sanctions such as Plato had wished for, but scarcely dared to expect : — to the Roman patrician, if any there were who still looked back with fond memory to the purer morals and stern courage of his forefathers, the Christian simplicity of manners and firm endurance of torture and death, was the realisation of what he had heard of and admired, but scarcely seen till then : — to the slave, sighing under oppression, and condemned to hopeless bondage, the doctrine of the gospel gave all that was valuable in life ; — the Christian slave was the friend of his Christian master, partook of the same holy feast ; shared the same painful but glorious martyrdom : he was raised at once to all his intellectual rank ; found freedom beyond the grave, and lived already in a happy immortality : — to the women, degraded in her own eyes no less than in those of the tyrant to whose lusts she was the slave, it offered a restoration to all that is most dear to the human race : it offered intellectual dignity, equality before God, purity, holiness. The Christian wo-