

man is he who walks through the clear atmosphere and in the bright light of the Gospels! I bring the men of my experience and of my imagination into the presence of Jesus, and behold how the wisest and the best fall short of Him! My human consciousness assures me they fall also short of the best idea of what it is to be a man. Here is the spirit of man in its true perfection; and what then? If he not also the candle of the Lord? 'I am come a light into the world,' said Jesus. 'He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.' 'It was life, and the life was the light of men.' So wrote the man of all men who knew Him best. And in Him, where were the defects that we see in ourselves? Where for one moment is there selfishness? It seems to me a wondrous thing that the supremely rich human nature of Jesus never for an instant turned to self-indulgence, or was beguiled by that besetting the danger of all human souls, to wish in the deepest sense just to enjoy himself. How fascinating that desire is, how it keeps many of the most abundant natures from being useful; just to handle over and over again their hidden treasures, and with a spiritual miserliness, to think their thought for the pure joy of thinking, and turn emotion into the soft atmosphere of selfishness. There is not one instance of that in Jesus. All the vast richness of His human nature only meant for Him more power to utter God to man. Yet how pure His rich life was! It abhorred to burn with any fire not divine, there was such abundant life and such utter incapacity of any living but the holiest, an utter in-

capacity of being kindled by any torch save God's. Such fulness, with such purity, was never seen besides upon the earth. Yet we know that He is no monster, but only the type of what all men must be, although all men but Him as yet have failed to be it. Yet there was intense personality; without a moments bigotry, a special life, a life that stands distinct among all the million lives of men, and yet a life that makes the universal God all the more universally manifest by its distinctiveness, appealing to all lives just in proportion to the intensity of the individuality that filled His nature. I think I need only bid you look at Him, and you must see what it is to which our feeble lights are struggling. There is the truth spiritual Man who is the candle of the Lord, a light that lighteneth every man. It is distinctively a new idea of life, new to the standards of our ordinary living, which this truth reveals. All our ordinary appeals to men to be up and doing, and to make themselves shining lights, all fade away and become insignificant before the higher message which comes in the words and in the life of Jesus. What does the higher message say to you and me? It says; you have no place in the world but in relation to Him, the full relationship to Him can only be realized by obedience. Be obedient to Him, and you shall shine by His light, not by yours. Then you cannot be dark, for He shall kindle you. Then you shall be as incapable of burning with false passion as you shall be quick to answer to the true. The body must be valued only