

educated people, people from many lands; Jews and Gentiles, traders, officers in the army, civil service officials, and members of the Imperial household. Their church, Paul foresees, is destined to be an influential church. Rome is the capital of the world, is a world condensed, a splendid centre of propagation for the Kingdom of Christ. To the statesmanlike mind it is of the utmost importance that Rome should have a full pure Gospel, and have it, not second-hand, but direct. Hence this epistle, the clearest and completest exposition of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. More than any other book in the Bible it has shaped the thought and the theology of the Church of Christ, and has been well designated the Cathedral of Christian thought.

Here then, we stand on the highest ground in the Holy Scriptures. Romans is the Switzerland of the New Testament. Here is truth upon truth in mountain ranges; bare, storm-swept peaks of human righteousness piercing the sky, valleys of humiliation echoing the hollow rumbling of hidden torrents, delectable mountains radiant with assurances of God's inalterable love, heights of holiness white as the driven snow, while at their feet nestle, bright with the blue of heaven, lakes of peace and brotherly kindness.

In the Swiss country, it is not so much the height of the mountains that is remarkable, as the harmonious grouping and the sweep and wondrous unity of the whole. So likewise, the traveller through the epistle to the Romans climbs to eminences that command the whole horizon of Christian doctrine, disclosing the relation of one truth to another, setting them in their true perspective.

Such a point of vantage is the tower of the old church in Geneva where the first reformers, three hundred and fifty years ago, preached faith in Jesus Christ. Standing there, and looking up the lake, the distant view is bounded by a huge dark mountain, from whose broad shoulders rise, side by side, three snow-clad peaks, much alike in shape, and size, and height. There is a similar situation in the epistle to the Romans. We stand in the stronghold of Reformation doctrine. Full and fair beneath us lies the lake of Divine Love, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, buttressed on both sides by mountain chains of impregnable argument against Jew and Gentile casuistry, while yonder, in perfect perspective rise sublimely side by side three peaks once seen never forgotten. Each is the first verse of a chapter, each ushered in by a *therefore*, each the apex of an argument, and each standing out clear-cut, snow-white against