

great and good men because of his relation to the Saviour. For centuries spirit-filled men had been foretelling the advent of the Prince of Peace. Moses could point forward to Him as the prophet like unto himself; Balaam was forced to speak of Him as the Star of this dark world's hope; David sang of Him as the great King before whom all would fall, and Isaiah, as if by telescopic vision, could place Him as the Servant of Jehovah—the One to be “wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities,” but John was able, in the first stage of his ministry, to say that there would follow him the great One whose shoe-latchet he was not worthy to unloose, and in his latter days of usefulness, to point to the Person of the One so long spoken of and say, “behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.” If John's relation to the Saviour were the basis for all else that was good in him, is it not true, at the present day, that we may fairly gauge the range of a man's greatness and the extent of his good influence by the attitude which he has assumed to Him whom we call the “Christ of God.” Such must be the case. A man can be truly great and of permanent value only in so far as he is possessed by truth. So then, a man who is alive to truth will be favorably disposed toward Him who is the embodiment of all truth. I don't say that a man must believe the superstitious fabrications that have been gathered around the person of the Redeemer by mediæval devotees. I don't say that a man must accept the idea that so many degrees of human sin had to be met by just so many degrees of Christ's suffering. I don't affirm that Corybantic demonstrations are to be gone through in the acceptance of the Messiah; but, I do believe that a man who is true to himself, alive to the voice of God in nature and earnestly desiring to know the truth experimentally, will bow to Christ as the highest embodiment of universal truth, and will, apart from his views about the application of the atonement, be constrained to say in adoring words, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”