

nor to a hopeless scepticism, believing not only that there is much to learn outside the little circle of our knowledge, but that God will reveal it in His own good time ; holding what we have as valuable, not for itself alone but because of its promise and prophecy of what is yet to follow ; and looking into the darkness that lies before, not with terror but with inspiration. because we feel that we have the clew which as it runs up into the unseen is lost in the glory of that throne of perfect knowledge towards which our spirits are eternally advancing. We wait for the complete education of the human race to the hour of that great millenium when we all shall come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ. For as long as men continue to grapple with the supreme problems of life, as long as they are burdened with the "Divine discontent" which accompanies every earnest seeker after truth, as long as there is a sorrow to assuage, a temptation to conquer, a sin to redeem, that voice can never lose its sweetness which brings the glad news of eternal reconciliation between thought and purpose, the real and the ideal, the doctrine and the life, which unfolds to humanity the infinite outlook of the future, and bids it seek the fruition of being in the knowledge and the love of God !

THE STORY OF A HYMN.

In our hymn book there are many hymns whose origin is not generally known, although they are none the less interesting to those who do chance to know the composers and the circumstances which prompted them to write.

Let us look at that beautiful hymn which is a favorite with all those whose delight it is to sing to the praise of God. I refer to "Lead Kindly Light." It is of interest to know that its author was Cardinal Newman ; and it is of much greater interest to know the circumstances under which it was given to us. It was written at that period in his life when he was wavering between the views of the High Church Party and the doctrines of Roman Catholicism—to the latter he, however, finally yielded. Truly the "encircling gloom" was great ! The "night" of his struggle intensely dark ! Whether or not his faith wavered, man cannot tell. Whether the Light came to him clearer through the mysteries of priest-craft we do not know. One thing we do know is, that his struggle must have been great.

Let us glance at the circumstances which suggested these words. Mr. Newman having had occasion to be far from home, was about returning, and, on his homeward journey, had to cross a river. The shades of night had long since fallen, the darkness was intense, and the storm raging fiercely. The