

lofty doctrines of the gospel, we shall feel that its power must lie in its spiritual, rather than in its moral teachings; and that these are breathed into the heart, not spoken into the ears. It would long since have proved fatal to the claims of the religion of Jesus Christ, had men come to realize, or discovered, that it exhausted all its lessons simply in teaching the mind. The gospel would not have won the allegiance, even of a single generation of disciples, had it done nothing but instruct them in the truths of an earthly wisdom. It is because there is a more mysterious instinct, a deeper want, in the soul of man, that all ancient wisdom failed to furnish life to true piety. The power of philosophy lies, after all, in its deficiencies, in its confessions of what it cannot do; for, when it leaves us upon an ocean through which it owns that it cannot guide us, it has taught us its best lesson in teaching us this. It is a weary task for man to be ever chasing after the horizon, where light and darkness meet. His horizon changes just as he changes his own place; but, change as he may his own place, he can never alter the fixed proportion of light and darkness to his mortal vision. Better is it to stand convinced that that solemn horizon sweeps all around us, and embraces all of heaven, as well as the earth. All the rays of earthly intellect, pride, and genius, which promise successively to give man light for his spirit, fail to abide by him and to meet his wants. He passes through them and beyond their aid. They go out one by one, as the stars of midnight to the lone traveller. There is something that is dangerously deceptive in the boastful pretences of our modern philosophy, which, having appropriated the substance of Christian truth on some moral and spiritual themes, as-