

men of advanced thought, for men wearied with the conflicts of sects and dogmas, and for others to whom religion has lost its power through their antipathy to creeds, ceremonies and services of the church, and through their pro-social and political sympathies. So much of virtue it has in sound, sense, and suggestion.

But when looked at more nearly its qualities of high worth appear more clearly. It gives conscious expression to the trend of thought and feeling which for many years past has been the unconscious direction of the teachers of Christendom. Is not this statement justified by the exceeding attention given to the footsteps of Christ, and to all that class of literature resulting in the many 'Lives of Christ?' It is the attempt to get nearer to Christ, to make Him more real, more human, and for this end men have gone back to the earliest records of that wondrous life. Certainly since the days of Robertson of Brighton the trend of religious teaching has been towards this realism, so that the humanity of Christ and all its surroundings might be looked at more nearly than when he was considered too divine to be approached. "Back to Christ" thus very pithily summarises this considerable religious and literary activity which has not yet spent its full force.

Nor does the value of this phrase become less when we turn from its historical and tendency importance to consider its significance for the individual. To the soul of the believer how much of reproach and warning and inspiration in such a cry as "Back to Christ?" When he is wearied with the round of formal religious duties and finds no refreshment in them, or overcome by doubts and fears, or stained through temptation and sins, these words will come as a charm to him, like the voice of the Saviour on the troubled waters—"It is I! be not afraid." They will be regarded as the touchstone of truth and duty, calling him back to the source of life and light.

He was therefore a fortunate phrase-maker, who could put so much in so few words, and satisfy at the same time such a large and various constituency. So much and a good deal more may well be said in favour of this phrase.

But there is another side on which something also must be said. If it should seem strange that a word according with so many needs and expressing so much that is good, may yet have another