

jostling priests of the worship of the sun, the Roman soldiers swaggering across the market-places where the peasantry were exposing the produce of their fields and gardens for sale, and where fish were displayed by the hardy toilers of the lake, among whom were those whom the Great Teacher selected to be the first recipients of His message and the channels for its communication to after ages."

Where now are mere heaps of grass-grown ruins, with column and capital, carved frieze and massive foundation-stones mingled together in wild confusion, some twelve proud and wealthy, gay and luxurious cities then made the homes of a dense and largely foreign population; the beautiful lake, now so silent and forsaken, was then thronged with the rich gondolas wherein the noble ladies and gallants of Rome took their pleasure, and with the humbler boats of the fishermen of Galilee. And Christ saw it all, lived among it all, nay, pierced to the heart of it all, and as though indicative of His freedom from the narrow exclusivism of the Jew on the one side, and of heathenism as represented in the majestic, but morally base civilization of Rome upon the other side, chose to begin His ministrations, and to win the earliest citizens of that kingdom of heaven whose bounds are as wide as the world, in that very Capernaum which in the splendour of its pomp eclipsed all the rest of the towns of Rome's creation, and which in the depth of its profligacy and dissipation out-rivalled the cities of the plain.

It is when, in our thought, we set Jesus in the midst of these scenes and surroundings where He could touch the world's life of His day at its core, that we catch a glimpse of such a view of the wide world He came to redeem as must have filled and occupied His mental vision, since there, as on the mount of temptation, "the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them," lived and shone before Him in their motley representations; it is only then that we are really face to face with the magnificent and beneficent purposes which glowed within the soul of the Nazareth Peasant, and with the ponderous difficulties lying athwart the path of their accomplishment. Yet the gorgeous and powerful civilizations of Rome and Greece and Egypt are no more; the Jewish nation, as such, has ceased to be; here and there a group of fellahin, Bedouin or Arabs, is all that remains of the dense mass of humanity Jesus mixed and lived among; but that kingdom of God among men initiated by the Prophet of Nazareth where the narrow ceremonialism of the Jew held the native population in chains of iron, and where were displayed alike the