

to teach of the Nature of God.— It tells me that the terms, Nature, Essence, Substance, in the Godhead belong to one and the same idea ; but that the term Person in the Godhead belongs to a different idea. In fact, two ideas corresponding to truth as it is in God have been revealed to us ; the idea of Substance, and the idea of Person, and we are told that God is Three and God is One, — but so as to involve no contradiction because He is not One in the sense in which He is Three, nor Three in the sense in which He is One, but One in Substance, Three in Person. I understand that these ideas relate to ineffable truths in the Godhead. I bow to the truth as far as God is pleased to reveal it ; but, after all, I do not comprehend, except « through a glass in a dark manner, » what is meant by the term, Substance or Person, in God ; except that they are not the same, and that so far as human language and ideas are able to teach, they are a help to me towards the contemplation of the infinite ineffable Reality, which is God Himself. « No man hath seen God (even with the eye of the mind), the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father He hath revealed Him ; » but the incomprehensible Nature of God remains still a mystery.

— Quite right, that is the attitude of faith. Silent contemplation of an Object which faith presents to the mind, which is true but ineffable. I like your mode of stating the doctrine, without attempting sensible illustrations or explanations of the incomprehensible.

Your remark, dear friend, calls to my mind a beautiful story of St. Augustine. Seated on the sea shore, he was preparing a homily for the people on the Blessed Trinity, and was trying if by any explanations or sensible images he could make it clearer to them, when looking up he saw a child who had dug a hole in the sand, into which he was ladling the sea water ; on being asked by the Saint what he was about, he answered. « Don't you see I am going to empty the sea into this little hole. » Oh ! thought the holy Doctor, it is as easy for you to do that as for me to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity ; that the small hole in the sand can as easily contain all the water of the ocean as the mind of man can comprehend the mystery of the nature of God.