

## WHAT CHRIST DID NOT.

What Christ did not do is as remarkable as what He did do. He is not a philanthropist in the ordinary sense. He came not into the world to improve man's physical condition as a primary object. He discouraged all desire or hope on the part of His followers as to temporal expectation. He boldly declared: "in the world ye shall have tribulation;" and when a scribe said to him, "Master, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest," he chilled the desire and silenced the expression by saying: "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head." If you say to me that when Peter declared, "We have forsaken all for Thee," that the Master replied: "They that have forsaken fathers and mothers" and so on, "for me shall receive a hundred-fold in this world." I say that that was simply declarative of a result, and was not presented as a motive. If you insist upon it that it was a motive, then I affirm that the motive was negatived by the expression that Christ also added: "Tribulation and persecution." The miracles that He wrought were but the credentials of His ministry, and I am not far from the truth when I assert that had He not come as the Son of God to proclaim himself to the faith of mankind as such, He would not have wrought a miracle. He did not heal all the blind, He did not restore all the sick, He did not raise all the dead, but here and there, wherever He could write a credential by a miraculous power, there He wrote it. The poor were around him, the orphans were on every hand, but Christ organized no orphan asylum. The widows wept around Him, but He instituted no houses of mercy for them. He has not the poor honor of Howard, nor the honor of Peabody, who reared tenement houses for the working classes. He does not rank as a philanthropist in the ordinary sense. Nor did He come into the world as the great teacher of science. He founded no college. He opened the portals of no university. He did not send the schoolmaster abroad. Nay, with contempt He uttered the saying that "By wisdom the world knows not God." He was familiar with the secrets of nature. He was a high priest of science. His Divine imagination grasped the universe. What a system of science he could have given. He might have anticipated Bacon, Newton, La Place and others. All the magnificent inventions of to-day, which have lifted the burden of toil from the shoulders of humanity, flowed through that Divine imagination. The iron horse, the electric telegraph, the screw, the wedge, the lever, all these were familiar to him. He might have anticipated Watt, and Morse, and others. What a system