

THE VISIONS OF YOUTH

for evil, force against force ; and, old and young alike, we shall have to be vigilant on this side. But the young knighthood of whom we are thinking will not readily acquiesce in thinking that the reserves of power on the side of good are less than those so vividly displayed by evil. They will look for developments of peace as great as those of war. They will be slow to believe that what hatred can inspire, love cannot surpass. It is here that what I called their drastic tendency will come in. They will recognize that the issues of history have cut down to the quick. The young generation may lack definiteness of Christian profession (though, if I am not mistaken, it will have in its ranks a stiffening of Christian men as intrepid, unselfish, and ready for the call as any generation of the past has been), but it has inherited and embraced the central Christian truth that 'love is best' and has royal rights. Never, perhaps, have more people believed with a passion of conviction that 'God is Love' ; and those who are not able to make articulate response to that supreme discovery of the disciple (who had learnt it from his Master's character, teaching, cross and victory), are yet clear enough that love and love alone (in no sensual or passionate sense) is the one power which it is worth while to worship. So, for example, at Christmas-time every kind of voice seizes opportunity to tell us.

The war, if I mistake not, will itself confirm such beliefs. In the new start, the younger generation—German, one may hope, as well as French or British—will recognize