

like heart, which the toilsome and self-renouncing labours of the much maligned higher critics will one day, when the dust of conflict has cleared, find their highest glory and completest justification in establishing on a firm basis of thoroughly tested historical probabilities and facts. For true feeling is critical, as well as honest thought. It separates, distinguishes, quietly but surely takes what is akin to it—alive and real—and eliminates all that is inorganic, obsolete, not to be digested or assimilated. It has a strange tact and intuitive vigour of selection and anticipation. Science comes lumbering up in its rear, like the male mind, which after three years' laborious reflection, overtakes at length the conclusions reached in five minutes by a woman's or an artist's intuition. Herder, who happened to have the unfair advantage of being a poet, reached about a hundred years ago by pure "flaire," as the French call it, pretty much the same conclusions as the laborious little tack-hammers of the New Testament scholars have now riveted into a palpable fabric, such as imposes itself for the most part on the acceptance of all the people who are at all worth considering.

After what I have tried to make plain to you, as to the character of our material, it will not surprise you to hear that there are many questions about the life and aims of Jesus which are far from being settled, and which perhaps will never be settled. And among these one of the most hotly debated is the question which most concerns the subject of this essay—How did Jesus himself conceive his own mission and person? But I should be very much surprised if the answer that is destined finally to prevail most widely will differ much from what has substantially come home all along to those readers of the Gospels who have read them with their own eyes and not through dogmatic spectacles with all the colours of the rainbow, but simply with a view to the best they could get out of them for their own highest life.

Jesus certainly felt that it was his mission, as it still is and has always been, to clear his hearers' mind of cant, to lead them to the open daylight of reality out of the land of