

profound impression on the hearts of devout and earnest Christian men, and if they could only witness such triumphs as these again, their largest desires would be satisfied.

But there is very much in the life of the Church itself which should lead us to pray God to grant us a fresh baptism of the Holy Ghost and of fire; and if He answers our prayer, the first revelation of the "exceeding greatness of his power" may be among those who already believe. And yet, if the religious earnestness of the Church were deepened, if Christian men, generally, entered into the conscious possession of the blessedness which is their inheritance in Christ, if they lived in the light of God, if in the strength of a more vigorous faith they overcame the world, and if from an intenser spiritual life there sprang a more vivid sense of brotherhood among all Christian people, it is practically certain that vast numbers of men who are now indifferent or hostile to the Christian Faith would be moved to penitence, and would confess the authority of Christ.

But if a Revival of Religion came it would make our religious activity more intensely religious.

One of its first effects would be to inspire us in all our evangelistic work with a fervent zeal for the glory of God. We are not troubled as we should be by the sins of men against God. Our own loyalty to Him who is the Prince as well as the Saviour of men, is not so hearty that we are agitated, wounded, and pained by the resistance which is offered to His authority. He claims the obedience and the homage of all mankind—He could not surrender this claim without violating that eternal law of righteousness which constitutes Him the ruler of our race. To recover their obedience and homage He laid aside His glory, and endured all the temptations and troubles of this mortal life, and the mysterious and awful death in which He atoned for the sins of the world. Ever since His ascension to the right hand of God, He has been striving to secure the triumph of that Divine kingdom which He has established among men, and to secure the doing of God's will on earth as it is done in heaven. The struggle has lasted for centuries—the struggle between Divine authority and human disobedience. The resistance to the power of Christ assumes many forms: sometimes it appears in open hostility to the Christian faith, and an unqualified denial of the right of Christ to the submission and obedience of men; sometimes in the flagrant violation of those moral laws which He is resolved to avenge with all the resources of His omnipotence, if He cannot constrain us to obey them by His love; sometimes in a cold indifference to His claims on human trust, affection, gratitude and reverence; but on every side we see that men are refusing to acknowledge Christ as their true King. He has been enthroned, but vast provinces of His empire defy His power and habitually break His laws.

If a Revival of Religion came, we should be moved to indignation by this foul revolt. We should feel the enormous ingratitude of those who refuse to submit to Him. Their refusal would seem to us the supreme crime of which men can be guilty. We should be deeply and intensely in earnest in our endeavour to assert the claims of Christ to the obedience and honour