

The next day John saw Jesus walking on the banks of the Jordan, and he cried "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." Now was Christ manifest in the flesh, now was His Kingdom set up. Love that never fails, or fades, or dies was made known to men. The child who was born on Christmas night, whose birth was heralded by Angels, the little child who lay in the arms of His maiden mother in Bethlehem's lowly stable was drawing all the world to Him.

Two thousand years have passed since then and although the Church has suffered many persecutions, has been attacked on every side, it still holds its standard up and new empires bow down before Him; the cross on which He died, the emblem of salvation, is now set in the diadem of kings, it shines over our great buildings, the world has accepted Him to a great extent, and bears witness to St. John's words that the "Lamb of God" passed by that day on the banks of Jordan. The King is on His throne; millions of voices have chanted His birthday song this Christmas-tide; Heaven and earth are full of the praise of His holy name "Jesus," "Saviour." That little child whom we come to worship in Bethlehem has changed the character of nations, all the good in the world today is due to His influence and saving power.

But is there not another side to the picture? St. John said to the Scribes and Pharisees, "There standeth one among you whom ye know not." Then, as now, people thronged about Him, listened to His teaching, saw the miracles that He did. We are told that some believed, and some did not; some had a dim idea that He was above other men; many, alas, regarded Him with scorn—as it was then is it not so, even now? On Christmas Day the Christ-child is preached from every pulpit, in all parts of the world, the song of the Angels of the Incarnation is chanted, flowers and music, incense and worship are offered in all Christian Churches. His perpetual Presence is covenanted to His people. His Holy Spirit is with us to make the power of the Gospel of Christ known to us. He stands there in our midst, on our altars, the Lamb of God, manifested to all men, the Saviour of the World, drawing alike the shepherd from his fold and the king from his throne by the tender compelling power of His love. Yet of all the crowds who throng His Churches, who come near even to the steps of the Altar, how many know Him? We know of Him, know the leading points of His history, but Him, perhaps, still we know not. Know not the fellowship of His sufferings, nor the power of His Resurrection, nor His Sacramental Presence in the Church and in our own souls. And for us there is no excuse. To us Jesus has manifested, and does manifest Himself continually. To us He does not speak in a voice we cannot understand.

In the realm of nature all created things possess the power of self-manifestation, and what does