



THE VISION OF CHRIST AND ITS RESULTS.

BY THE LORD BISHOP OF SODOR
AND MAN.

(Continued from page 220.)

NOW turn to the inquiry, Is this desire capable of fulfilment; and if so, how, and in what ways? There is one thing which I think all professing Christians will admit, and that is, that it is capable of fulfilment hereafter. Many a definite promise on the subject might be quoted here, and surely it is of the very essence of Christianity to hope to be with Christ in the brighter world, and to behold His glory. But that is not the point I wish to elicit. What I ask is this: Is it capable of fulfilment in our present state? And to this inquiry I don't hesitate to reply with an emphatic "Yes." How else can you interpret those words of Christ, "He that hath My commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me; and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him"? Look again at those words of St. Paul, "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?" But

I will not content myself with proof-texts. I want to put the matter also thus. It has been the testimony of Christian souls in all ages that, with the eye of faith, though not yet with the eye of sense, they have seen the Saviour, and that He has attracted them to Himself, as the pole attracts the needle, and as the sunflower is attracted by the sun; that their view of Him has produced in themselves the results of which we have been thinking; and that they have found peace, not because they have fathomed the great Redemption, but because they have seen and trusted the great Redeemer. I tell you, then, on the authority of Scripture, and I tell you on the testimony of the best and holiest in the world's history, that this desire is capable of fulfilment in our present state.

But now come in the last place to the all-important question, How, and in what ways? Well, in replying to this question, do let me press on you very solemnly that the fulfilment of this desire is a matter of deep personal responsibility. "The soul of the sluggard," says the wise man, "desireth, but hath nothing." It is only the soul of the diligent that is made fat. I invite you, then, to ask yourselves, what honest efforts are you making to remove the veils which obscure the Saviour; and, if you have caught a glimpse of Him, what endeavours to abide in His light? Ah, my brother, remember this: whatever efforts you are either making or failing to make, you have an arch-enemy whose chief object, as regards you, is to hide the Saviour from your view. Some persons think that when the devil tempts men, he only tempts them to what are called the gross and glaring