

ground of the second part has been often traversed. The testimony of early writers—Eusebius, Clement, Irenæus, Tatian, Justin Martyr, Papias, Polycarp—has been presented by Lightfoot and others, although by none more convincingly or better adapted to the popular mind. All this is very important evidence, and Dr. Dale makes good use of it. But he does a far more important work. He shows that the faith of Christian men in the Lord Jesus Christ does not ask for the protection of friendly scholarship, and that the assault of hostile scholarship cannot reach it. "It needs neither Tacitus nor Pliny, neither Philo nor Plotinus, neither Justin nor Irenæus."

The first four lectures deal with the argument from Christian experience, its validity and defence. There are men of intellectual vigour, patience, keenness, culture, candid and incorruptible in their loyalty to truth: *How is it that the faith in Christ in such men is unshaken?* Dr. Dale answers: Whatever may have been the original grounds of their faith, their faith has been verified in their own personal experience. They have trusted in Christ for certain great and wonderful things, and they have received great and wonderful things. They struggled despairingly against some tyrannical sin or evil habit; they cried to the Living Christ, and the evil fires were quenched. They were filled with horror and remorse through the discovery of their guilt; but once the Living Christ broke the chain, and there came a sweet sense of forgiveness, of freedom, and they were guilty no longer. They groaned under the weight of clay, and longed for deliverance from the cramping power of earth: "in Christ" they know God, not conceive of Him, but know Him immediately and for themselves: and this open-faced vision fills them with awe and wonder, and a blessedness that trembles into a devout fear.

The man who has had such experiences as these, will not be greatly disturbed by attempts to bring discredit on the four gospels. Why should he? He has seen the Living Christ, and, "whereas I was blind now I see," is his answer to all cavillers. They are as strongly convinced of the truth of the story of the historic Christ as they are of their own existence. And not simply the Christ of Bethlehem and Calvary; but the Living Christ, who, during these eighteen centuries, has been saving and ruling men.

It is not Dr. Dale's primary object to answer the question, Why do men continue to disbelieve in Christ? Indirectly this may be answered. But his statement of the grounds of Christian belief is excellent. It is full of suggestions for other preachers. The conditions are the same. The same questions are asked in Canada, that are asked in Carr's Lane, Birmingham. The same answer will satisfy. This is in very truth the "new apologetic," universal in its application, irresistible in its power.