

human medium necessarily vitiates the revelation. The argument amounts to no more than Hume's familiar fallacy that no evidence can be producible sufficient to authenticate a miracle ; whilst the new putting of it exposes itself to this further disadvantage, that it is associated with the distinct declaration that God can and does reveal Himself to His creatures by the very constitution of their natures. The supernatural is first postulated as penetrating through nature to the inmost spirit of man, and then bidden to confine Himself to the one avenue of access.

Anything better adapted to their purpose than the tests by which we must separate between the false and the true, the human and the Divine, in that which claims to be a revelation from God, *i.e.*, in the Christian Scriptures, can scarcely be devised. The decision rests with the individual sense of worth and fitness, due regard being paid to intrinsic quality and to manifest tendency. We may pick and choose, select and reject, very much at our own sweet will. The door is thrown wide open to the application of the most arbitrary causes, since every man becomes a law unto himself. Every scintilla of certainty incontinently disappears. Nor are we reassured as we watch the process at work. In Dr. Martineau's hands, "the methods of just thought, the instincts of pure conscience, and the aspirations of unclouded reason," refuse those very records which commend themselves the most strongly to other men of intelligence, refinement, and religious sensitiveness. Whether voices are weighed, or counted, or both, the majority inclines heavily towards the retention of that which Dr. Martineau casts away with confident emphasis.

The saddest chapters of all are those with which the volume concludes. Not merely, as I have intimated before, do they continue the destructive process, but virtually they surrender the task which their author has set himself as impossible of accomplishment. They leave us with "Jesus of Nazareth . . . the Prince of Saints." But what are we allowed to know of Him? The Gospel according to St. John perishes utterly. The Synoptic Gospels contain no