

censure on a church or its principles, which has produced true and good men and women. Practice is the test of principles after all, and true life is the end of faith. I would that they could say with me :

“ Strong Son of God, immortal love,
When we, that have not seen thy face,
By faith, and faith alone embrace,
Believing where we cannot prove.”

but they do not, because they cannot. They remain true to their own convictions, and I am not going to speak hard words of them for that. I shall speak of them with profound respect ; for they have had mighty men who have done mighty things on earth for the uplifting of our common humanity ; they have manifested culture of mind and of spirit ; a firm, intellectual grasp upon questions subtle or simple ; great energy in the cause of popular freedom ; less of bigotry than any other of the churches ; a high moral character, and a just walk, which has commanded the respect of all but the fools of the earth. Their aim is great as ours, and the same as to end ; that sin shall be destroyed, and holiness become the one regnant power in the mind and heart of man ; that the world shall be saved, and God the universal love have universal glory. Judge them as to their motive and aim ; and though your method shall jar against theirs, give them credit for the good there is in them. For, it is the spiritual expression that steals from our dogma ; the fulness with which it interprets the holy character of God ; the nearness it makes us feel of the eternal world to our world, and not simply its logical accuracy, or general orthodoxy, that gives it its worth. The soul is reached religiously by methods of art rather than by methods of science. It is the amount of quickening truth with which our creed is translucent that helps us. Be charitable to your brother, for, with his convictions, even though they be erroneous, if he is no less sensitive than you to a violation of truth, to a stain on his integrity, to passing an uncharitable judgment, or circulating a slander, or bolstering iniquity by a vote, or being found in any way hostile to God, and keeps his soul open to the divine life for purification and strength, both of you have the essential truth. The spirit is near you both, and will use your dogmas with indifference to any philosophical weakness or strength. I do not say that truth of creed is not important. I do not say that a