

Stuart Mill says, "The character of Jesus Christ is the divine picture for the human soul to copy." And even Mr. Lecky says that Jesus has given us not only the model, but the incentive to the practice of virtue. And, therefore, we have in this Book a divine portraiture, than which nothing can be more beautiful; and as long as the world stands, whatever progress it makes, it can never pass beyond the inspired portraiture of Jesus of Nazareth, any more than the mariner, who sails upon the sea, can out sail the great rim of the horizon. It matters not what islands he may sail by, or what new constellations may appear above him; that perfect ring still shines down upon him, the blue heavens, the hollow of God's hand, still overarch him. So it will be with Jesus of Nazareth, as long as the world stands.

So, too, we do not need a new Bible, because we do not want any new motives to the practice of the greatest virtue. I cannot with proper patience, perhaps, listen to the cant of men who call themselves "Humanitarians," and who reject the Bible as too narrow to live by. What is more, they reject the Scriptures and steal into the divine Word and steal the weapons that would never have existed if it had not been for the Bible. Why, if these men's fathers had not believed in the Scriptures, their degenerate sons would be still in the barbarism from which the Bible took their ancestors. When a certain battle was over, and when the gallant commander leaned upon his sword, wiping the blood from his brow, a ringletted fop came up and claimed the honor that the soldier of valor had won. And so we feel when these men undertake to regenerate the world without the Scriptures, by certain discoveries; they have to steal from religion the truths that are intended to supplement the truths of the Bible.

These writers are always scoffing at Paul. They say he formulated cold, hard doctrines. Did you ever hear of a humanitarian that wore out his life trying to rescue men from the barbar-

ism of heathenism? Well, Paul, who formulated these cold, hard doctrines, girdled this world with a zone of life and light as a missionary. The great apostle of humanitarianism in modern times has told us that "God is something without us that makes for righteousness;" that is his definition of God; and he says that the great incentive to virtue in man springs out of what he calls "sweetness and light." Did you ever hear of a humanitarian that could say, "For the space of three years I have warned every man to fear God, and they would not believe in the power without us that works for righteousness?" Did you ever hear of a man who drew his inspiration out of his own sweetness and light who could say, "Thrice have I suffered shipwreck; a night and a day have I been in the deep," in trying to bring mer to God?

The grandest sufferings that man has ever endured for humanity's sake have been endured by men who drew their inspiration out of the Bible, and who were filled with the constraining love of Christ.

Let the world make progress, and may God bless and speed its progress! but the world will never get beyond the Bible. The Bible will always march in advance of the race. I know not to what sublime heights human speculations may ascend; but I know that human thought will never conceive of anything grander in the religion of the future than the definition the Bible gives us of God, as a spirit, invisible, eternal, unchangeable. I know not what success may be attained in the researches of the coming years; but I know that in men's passion for research they will find no ideal higher than Christ which this Book presents to us. I know not what form of beauty the heaven of heavens may contain; but I know that the heaven of heavens contains nothing sweeter and diviner than the crucified Jesus. I know not what pictures the heart touched by sorrow may draw; but I know there is no spectacle more calculated to fill and thrill the heart of man than the spectacle of