

THE VISIONS OF YOUTH

(and taught by them in a degree to elders) that there is a better way by which in a divided Christendom we may meet as Christians without compromise, to know each other, to speak and confer with each other, to seek God together. Often it has happened that men have got far upon some common topic of religious experience and inquiry before they found out each other's denominational position. Yet each will recognize that in that position were the roots of his own life and convictions. This is a development of immense promise. The intercourse so experienced, and the atmosphere so created may indeed in the long run be destructive of differences. But if so, it will be in the right and hopeful way, not by jettison of the precious things of revelation or of spiritual conviction and inheritance, but by making them more and more ready for fusion in the one Truth and one Church of our faith and of our far-off hope. Meanwhile this habit of mutual intercourse will do much to focus upon our moral and social tasks a disciplined and deepened spiritual force.

There is in this direction great cause for hope. For undoubtedly there has been a sense amongst us that Christian opinion and conscience have not had the influence that they should have upon national and international life, and it is doubtful whether a more active interference of 'the Churches' or organized Christian bodies would be the right remedy. Such interference is apt to be resented. It easily becomes interested or political. It may produce a recoil of discord and recrimination in the Church that