

toward that place victory after victory was gained until the heart of France was surrounded by the German troops, and ultimately taken. And I ask you if there ought not to be a wisdom somewhat like unto this on the part of God's Church militant. As God's consecrated host, let us not go to fight against this or that particular fragment of rebellion against God, let us strike against the rebellion itself, in its seat, the human heart, with the Truth, the divinely given weapon, and in the power of the Divine Spirit, and then—not by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit the mountains that rise up in our way, as the Lord put it in response to the faith of His disciples, will go into the sea, and His servants march forward from victory unto victory, until His spiritual temple is complete, and the cry goes up from the universe, "Grace, grace unto it."

Now, brethren, you are aiming at the circulation of this Book. Do not be afraid to give your money; human literature is fallible, the Divine is infallible. The best Christian literature has some mixture of the human in it, but this is the Word of the Living God. Many a time I feel and sometimes think, as I stand up to preach before large bodies of people, I sometimes tremble as I begin, but there comes the other second thought—it is not my wisdom, my imagination, my rhetoric, my eloquence, my speculation, my philosophy, my guesses after truth, it is not these things, one of them or all of them, that the Spirit of God is pledged and promises to bless. It is the truth of this Word that I am to represent and re-echo as an ambassador of Christ, that men receiving it may be reconciled to God in Christ, and then the preacher is nothing but the mere messenger—the message, in the hands of the Holy Spirit, that is everything, and when the Spirit has done, the cry must go up, "Not unto us, not unto us, but unto Thy Name be the glory."

So I commend to you, dear friends, more thorough reliance upon the grace and power of the Spirit, and the use of the Word attended by that Spirit, for dealing with these evil influences, and for strengthening God's servants in pursuit of virtue. We need that Spirit. You remember how Jesus Christ commanded the demons, and hostile critics looked on and they said, "See, He has cast them out, to be sure, but by the power of Beelzebub He has done so," and you remember how He spoke. It was practically as if He said, "Take care what you say; you may blaspheme against Me if you will, I have done that by the power of the Holy Spirit. I shall go away, the Spirit will come after Me, take care that you do not blaspheme against Him, there will be none to come after that Spirit, there is no fourth Person in the Godhead to take up this work of compassion and grace. Reject Me, speak against Me if you like, I shall finish the work given Me to do, I shall drain the cup to its dregs. When I have gone the Spirit will come, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, take care you do not fling Him off, that you do not reject Him, that you do not displease Him, for if you do there is no hope of forgiveness, there is no other way of approach to Me, there is no other power, no other power that can touch your hearts, there is no other divine voice that will make its appeal to your consciences!" *I believe in the Holy Ghost*, and in this Word as inspired by the Holy Ghost. O brethren, office-bearers, Christian people, magnify these powers, keep them at work in the churches. The Church of Jesus Christ is God's divinely constituted society for the discountenancing of all vice and the building up of all virtue. Use the Word in dependence upon the Spirit, and the work will be done according to God's will, and he will have the glory. May the praise be His through Christ, now and ever, Amen.

The service was brought to a close by the singing of the hymn,

Jesus the Word bestowed,

the Rev. Dr. Thomas pronouncing the benediction.