

the character of God, to minister to the spiritual nature, to save by leading into the Christ life. This is practical Christianity. It is admittedly practical to relieve temporal wants, to assist such as struggle by the way. It is surely equally practical to reveal to human souls the secret of moral living and the joy of spiritual communion with God. We must give the world what all the resources of commerce fail to provide,—the things on which the soul lives.

Have we grasped the idea that we are sent into the world even as Christ was sent? Are we, indeed, seeking and saving the lost? Are we giving to our boys and girls their God? The real followers of Christ are still the light of the world, banishing the darkness and the gloom of sin. They are still in the world, but not of the world. They are channels of grace, and help to bring others into harmony with God. They give their minds to their employment and attend to the details of business, but they are conscious of a greater mission in life,—to advance the cause of Christ for the betterment and the salvation of the world.

What would the world be but for such men and women, whose hearts are tender enough to experience real spiritual emotions, whose pity finds expression in true charity, whose sympathies are broad, whose talents are placed at the disposal of the Master, who love men because they are the children of God? They save the world, by revealing God's holiness, in the self-sacrifice, devotion and love of their own lives.

Truro, N.S.

### The Pattern in the Mount

*By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.*

From the mount of heavenly vision and divine fellowship, Moses went down to the long and laborious task of constructing the tabernacle. Many a grey and prosaic day succeeded those filled with brightness and glory. But all the while, the great leader had before his mind the pattern showed to him in the mount. He was a builder working out the design of the great Architect.

For us, too, there are seasons of vision and fellowship. Our very life depends upon these. The Sabbath, with its services and

sacraments, the quiet moments reserved from the rush and whirl of busy days for secret prayer and meditation on holy things,—these are our sunlit mountain tops, where our attentive spirits catch a radiance not of earth. But far too soon we, also, must descend to the monotonous level of daily tasks, so familiar and so endless. How almost unendurable it would all be, but for the pattern showed to us in the mount, but for the knowledge that, in the "trivial round, the common task", we are doing our part towards the accomplishment of plans framed by infinite wisdom and measureless love. All life, in this view, is sacred. Our great business is, out of the material of our thinking and purposing and doing, to build up a structure according to the pattern showed to us in the mount.

This is a pattern of righteousness. And that just means rightness. Those with whom we live have just claims upon us. In our homes we owe the debts of respect and reverence to parents, of good-will and helpfulness to brothers and sisters. As citizens, we are under obligation to obey the laws of our country, and give due honor to all who make or administer them. Faithfulness, integrity, fair dealing,—there is no one who has not the right to expect these from us. Above all, God who made us, who keeps us in life, who has redeemed us, is our Creditor for every moment of our time, for every energy of our nature.

The pattern in the mount is a pattern of love. True religion is not a matter of law and compulsion. The loving heart will overleap all artificial boundaries to its expression. Asked for its cloak, it will give its coat also. Compelled to go a mile, it will cheerfully go twain. Its gifts and toils will be as spontaneous and unstinted as the sunshine and the rain.

The mountain-top pattern is a pattern of faith. In the building of our lives, there must always be the forward look. From what we are, we must turn often and eagerly, in thought and imagination, to what, by God's grace we may become. Our past achievements are poor and discouraging enough; faith brings us heart and hope by the picture of greater things, which, by help from heaven, we shall accomplish.