

THE WORLD PROBLEM

life of the individual and of society was given, iterated and reiterated, by Christ and Paul and John, "God is Love; man must be Love: earth must become heaven."

How far this programme failed, and why; how much of it is admitted into the multitudinous organizations called "Churches"; how far and how deeply it has wrought as a leaven into the world-masses of humanity to-day; how the ideal of the Christ can again be restored as the ideal of man, organized without the world-spirit, so as to be worked out in a universal ethical evolution in the way that the Christ principle implies, involves an immense study. But that alone is the Christianity of Christ. While we await the coming of the world-prophet it may be of service for a prisoner of hope to tell how it has grown in the mind of one whose only claim is that for long, long years of agony, and of rapture, he has tried honestly to see the facts, to understand the essential principles and forces at work in the spiritual movements of the individual, and as they operate on the cosmic movements in the widening circles of socialized individuals, organized now by the soul with narrow outlook; some day to be reorganized by the soul widened under the inspiration of the developed spiritual vision.

The difficulties of modern psychology—scarcely born and tentative—will remain unanswered, every treatment of Comparative Religion will fail, until the standpoint of Paul is gained and his views are rightly interpreted and incorporated in a system of the higher life. The aim of the Christ can be reached only by the Christ-methods. It is a work, in preparation and fulfilment, that has already consumed uncounted years. "He shall not fail" though it cost countless centuries still.