

not think of changing their faith, but only of holding it on a different tenure and authority. They came to the simple ground of primitive Christianity. "No creed but the Bible, and no master but Jesus Christ." Scattered throughout the Union, they had no concert with each other. But as soon as the creeds fell away, the technical theologies fell away with them. Hence the "Christian" denomination sprang spontaneously into being; and it furnishes a living and practical demonstration of the fact, that the old theologies are kept up and imposed by ecclesiastical authority, and are not the creation of God's spirit working freely upon the heart. Knock out these artificial props, and they tumble down as inevitably as an arch without its pillars. These people (the Christians) number at this time, it is said, 1500 churches, as many preachers, and three hundred and fifty thousand members, all standing on the broad ground of liberal Christianity. Their spread and growth has been almost unprecedented; yet nobody was sent to convert them but the Divine Truth that works in the secret heart, and hence a large and growing denomination coming fresh from the bosom of the people. They have just established a college under the happiest auspices, which commands the whole field of the west, and which, according to present appearances, will at the end of three years be crowded with a thousand students.

All anxieties as to the ultimate triumph of a pure spiritual Christianity may be dismissed. And we do not mean by this the precise form of opinion which any denomination may happen to hold. We mean that Christianity which existed in the conceptions of Jesus Christ, and towards which the world makes approximations from age to age.