

some revelation of truth or moral power or spiritual excellence, or even earthly convenience and comfort ; until science or poetry, virtue or earthly utility, are advanced by them ; until the angelic visitations, which they would imply, become as precious as mortal and human influence, now at hand and everywhere within our reach ; or some of the very personages called up to act at least according to their former wisdom in the flesh, — we may well, with pre-occupied attention, continue to feed our aspirations and rejoice our hopes with what is at once so much better and more available to our belief, in the sublime and gracious doings of him who was in all ways approved by God for the Redeemer of the world.

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THERE is a crisis when every faithful son of God is agitated by a fierce controversy between the earthly and the divine elements of his nature. Self and the flesh seductively whisper, “Thou hast a life of many necessities ; earn thy bread and eat it ; and pay thyself for all thy trouble with a warm hearth and a soft bed.” The voice of God thunders in reply, “Thy life is short, thy work is great, thy God is near, thy heaven is far ; do I not send thee forth, armed with thought, and speech, and a strong right hand, to contend with the evil and avenge the good ? Indulge no more, or I shall leave thee : do thy best and faint not : take up thy free-will, and come with me.” By some such conflict does every great mind quit its ease to serve its responsibilities ; part, if need be with the sympathy of friends and the security of neighborhood, in fidelity to duty ; and suffer wasting and loneliness, as in bleakest desert, till temptation be vanquished, and hesitancy flung aside.—*J. Martineau.*