

Your positive presentation of Christ in all the glory of His person and work will be the best antidote to prevailing theological vagaries. Do not overlook the mischief done by the popular outcry against definiteness in theological thought, the widespread fondness for what George Eliot called "disembodied opinions that float in vapory phrases—a bigotry against any clearly-defined opinions—a lack of coherent thought, a spongy texture of mind that gravitates strongly to nothing. The one thing it is staunch for is the utmost liberty for private haziness."

Persons of these constitutional peculiarities are never done of inveighing against dogma, a term which, properly used, simply means a precise statement of ascertained truth in any department of human investigation. What is there in this to provoke antagonism? And yet some work themselves into what they think righteous indignation against dogma as something expressive of ignorance and presumption. A recent writer, for example, denounces the creeds of Christendom as "the idols of unfledged intellects, but the stumbling-block or scorn of the penetrating and conscientious, barriers to the progress of truth, and usurpations on the prerogative of reason and of its Author."

Be not dismayed by this sort of rhetorical noise. Truth can be ascertained, and should be distinctly formulated in all the sciences, including theology. This does not fetter the human mind—does not hinder but helps further investigation and progress. It is not necessary to our liberty and advancement in knowledge that truth should be kept in a state of vapory solution. Our freedom of thought is not impaired by the belief that centuries of devout study of Scripture by the ablest and best trained minds have conclusively settled certain things; and our intelligence and education are not to be pronounced lamentably defective because we prefer clearly defined doctrine to theological chaos. A man is not necessarily a stupid traveller, utterly destitute of originality and penetration because he accepts the earth's rotundity, the polarity of the