

see yourself dead you will stop talking about experience. What experience can a corpse have? If once you see that Christ saves of mere mercy—instantly saves you—saves you not for your emotions but in spite of your emotions—in spite of the shallow deceitfulness of your tears—that will end it. You will no longer hope, but trusting in Christ you will *know*. Self will drop out, and Christ will take the place of experience. From that time you will live in the present and no longer in the past. No longer will you inquire what was true or untrue, yesterday, or yesterday a week, or yesterday a twelvemonth. Forgetting the things that are behind, you will live where Paul lived—in God's golden, everlasting NOW—"the life which I *now* live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."

But why has not God made things so clear that men cannot object? For several reasons.

1. The nature of truth, of all truth, exposes it to objection. Truth always involves more than appears on the surface. The Indian savage who lies upon his back beneath the starlit heavens fancies that the sky above him is a broad blue blanket, and those stars, gilt spangles loosely scattered over it. To La Place or Herschell the same heavens are depths of infinite space crowded with rolling worlds, each one of which describes an exact mathematical circle—each one of which is subordinate—satellite to planet, planet to sun, and sun to far-binding Pleiad. Now to this scheme of La Place and Herschell, the savage would have many objections. In contrast with his first untutored impression, how would it be possible for him to prefer the slow results of calculation and the minute reports which come to him through the lenses of the telescope?

Precisely so is it with the Bible, that heaven of the moral universe. Like the savage, men look upon its statements as a congeries of isolated truths, confused, conflicting, contradictory, scattered over the 900 pages less or more of this book. The idea that there is a system here—that that system lies open to investigation—that it can be measured in all its expanses and fixed in all its details, and that in the line of patient discovery each truth falls into place and marches in the orbit of undeviat-