

in which we live, it would be found that then too a dead conscience tolerating a dead faith and accepting doings, in general, very shady, ones for the fear of God, was the first step in the "*facilis decensus.*"

To re-establish the authority of God is the chief present object of religion ; the instrument the Cross of Christ, but comprehensively understood. Belief in the supernatural is rooted in human nature, all efforts to uproot it unavailing, because attempts to uproot nature itself. Everything that lives and breathes proclaims the Invisible and Spiritual ; and belief in the possibility of intercourse with the other world has been as universal as faith in its existence.

Prayer is worship in the highest, but the Being who can hear prayer to purpose must be both omnipresent and omnipotent, with an ear open over the earth wherever man dwells, and a hand outstretched for help. But in the light of this position what absur-