

ever, that so long as education had not sufficiently advanced for the pure truth to be directly cognized and received, God would accept the reception of the truth in the indirect and mystical sense which is expressed by belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. That is, belief in the perfect human ideal of God, or, as it may be expressed, belief in the attributes of God and characteristics of His nature, as manifested and made known to men through the person, the doctrine and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are now able to discern more clearly the relation of New Year's Day and Christmas, because the latter commemorates the completion of one great epoch and the commencement of another great epoch in the intellectual progress of the human race. The day of its annual celebration may be justly considered, if it be rightly observed, as the intellectual or spiritual New Year's Day.

Let us remember when, at the end of the expired year, we examine and take stock of our progress, when we reckon up our most signal failures, and renew our resolutions to put more care, earnestness and energy into our work, that we are not alone; however solitary and secluded we may be in a human sense. But that we have One with us who can sympathise with our disappointments in failure; who will support our resolutions if they be faithful and true, and who will bless our endeavours if they be earnest and persistent. And let us not forget that our Great Ideal has first revealed Himself to us as engaged in the vast work of creation; that we are to take His manner