

days many among men knew but little of His character and heard only a few of His words. There was need of other credentials, plainer and more striking, to support the claims which Jesus made. We need them not. The miracles of Christ were like the bells of the church that ring before the service begins and call men by their music to come and worship. But the bells cease when the congregation has assembled, and the act of worship commenced. And so we say that it was to be expected that a supernatural revelation, brought by a supernatural teacher, should, in the absence of all earthly power and greatness, be accompanied by supernatural signs to attest the truth of the messenger and of the message He delivered unto men. If then, miracles are not only possible, but probable, the only remaining question for us to ask is, have we any satisfactory evidence that they have occurred? I have asserted, and I think not without cause, that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is, historically, a most certain fact. This Resurrection was itself a miracle, and if we can accept this as true, it were utterly illogical for us to disbelieve the other miracles which our Saviour worked. He who could raise Himself from the dead could surely still the tempest, feed the hungry, and heal the sick. But lest, by saying this, we should we should appear to be shirking inquiry into the marvels of Christ as reported in the gospels, let us see what evidence there is in their favor. You will observe that I do not, and have not, alleged these miracles in proof of the divine mission of Jesus. If He wrought miracles (as we believe) then they were credentials of His mission to those who witnessed them. But for us they have not the same evidential power because of the lapse of time and the long and complicated chain of evidence necessary to establish their occurrence. To us the long ages of Christian history are the credentials of His mission. These convince us, (not the miracles) that Jesus was the Christ."

First, I would have you bear in mind that the miracles of Christ, like the other witnesses we have called, are well authenticated facts, for they were worked in public, in the presence of men, before His foes as well as His friends. They were not done in a corner - in the sight of a few chosen followers, who were ready to ac-

cept anything but in the full light of day.

They are facts, for they are related by the writers of the four Gospels, in two of which, even that learned French infidel, Renan, admits we have the personal reminiscences of eye witnesses. And it is important for us to remember, in these days when we hear so much about the value of testimony, that once evidence is written down it is not affected by the lapse of time, but is just as conclusive thousands of years afterwards as it was in the days when it was first promulgated.

They are facts, for they were proclaimed far and wide at the time and in the country where they were alleged to have been worked, and could easily have been contradicted and disproved. They are facts which His Disciples believed in, and who were so likely to know as they?

They are facts, for even His enemies admitted their reality. The Jews did not deny them, but said He did them by Satanic influence. The heathen opponents of the Christ, while they maintained that they were worked by magic power, never thought of doubting the veracity of those who related them. In the Rabbinical writings it is implied that Jesus of Nazareth did many mighty works, while Celsus the heathen acknowledges that Jesus wrought miracles.

Secondly, the miracles of Christ are to be expected. They were the natural accompaniments of His mission of love; the embodiment of His character and word, in harmony with all else we are told of Him. They were perfectly natural and ordinary in Him, they were His powers or faculties, His capacities, just as sight and speech are ours. The healing of the sick, giving sight to the blind, the raising of the dead - things entirely beyond the reach of our powers, yet lay entirely within the compass of our Lord's capacities, and were in accordance with the laws of His nature. They were just such acts as might be expected of Him, like the kind deeds of the wealthy, or the good advice of the wise.

Thirdly, the miracles of Christ are unique. No other religion was ever founded upon miracles, as was Christianity. Mahomet disclaimed the power of working miracles, and in his, as in other false religions, miracles are only worked in the presence of those whose minds have been prepared and trained to