

from our minds. Besides, everyone knows that one who had thus crawled from the tomb exhausted, lacerated, at the point of death, could never win the hearts and revive the drooping spirits of the desponding disciples as was actually the case. Not thus could he have commanded their life-long worship; nor would they have thus learned to regard him as the Prince of Life—the Conqueror of Death.

Some again tell us that it was in their own minds the disciples saw the risen Jesus. But everything suggests that the opposite was more likely to be the case. It was a dead Jesus, not a living Christ that was in their minds. They were forlorn and dejected, and it was only after strong persuasion and actual sight that they were led to believe that the story of the resurrection was anything but an "idle" tale. If all they saw of Jesus was merely by mental vision, then it is strange that so many persons of different temperaments and in different places had such visions so soon after they were in this hopeless state of mind; it is strange that visions of Him ceased so suddenly; it is strange that loving fancy would present Jesus in such an almost cold, unfamiliar appearance as that in which he actually appears after the resurrection; and it is still more strange that the state of mental and nervous excitement necessary for seeing such a vision would in six weeks give place to the calmness and earnestness with which Peter preached the literal resurrection of Jesus. Psychology scorns the suggestion.

Others tell us that the belief in the minds of the apostles had its origin not in any mental vision, nor in any visible appearance of Jesus, but in communications which He himself sent from heaven, assuring them that He was safe in the house of the Father. But what shall we do then with the empty tomb? what with the gospel narrative, which among other things represents Jesus as risen so literally that Thomas may place his hand on the mark of the spear-thrust? Such a theory makes as great a demand on faith as does the literal resurrection, and it suffers from having no basis in fact of history such