

ignorant of our race." I say "is forming itself," but alas for the haphazard way in which it is being formed. It is lacking in harmony, consistency and unity—elements absolutely essential to permanency either in creed or in character. Stability can only be obtained by a complete abandonment of every false basis of belief and by a rigid obedience to the motives which discovered truth may place before us. When I say this I mean to say more than that some systematic creed is necessary to stability of character. I mean to say that unless we can hold firmly to a creed, every foundation stone of which has been tested by the touchstone of Christian consciousness and squared by the eternal truth of the Bible, we are liable to be blown about by every wind of doctrine, wandering spirits continually "seeking rest and finding none." But again, a clear creed is essential to self-reliance, which must always be one of the most prominent qualities in a strong and vigorous Christian manhood.

The Bible is a moving picture in which is portrayed most perfectly our own moral image in all its weakness and depravity, but side by side with this doctrine is plainly set forth the possibility of a union between man and God. And it is only by becoming fully seized of this doctrine that the believer can realize that he is linked with Omnipotence; that though his helplessness is so complete that without Christ, the great connecting link, he can do nothing; yet once the union has been effected, his consciousness of strength becomes so great that he can triumphantly exclaim with the apostle, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." The consciousness of strength which enables the Christian to undertake great things for God, does not arise from confidence in his own unaided powers, but from that confidence which springs spontaneously from a firm belief in the doctrine of the abiding presence and power of the Holy Spirit in his own soul.

By self-reliance then I do not mean self-isolation from the supporting arm of Omnipotence, but I mean that confidence in one's own powers, energized by the living doctrines of the Bible, which can only be the outcome of a perfect assimilation of those doctrines into our spiritual being.

If then the doctrines of the Bible have such transforming, elevating and energizing power, we may safely say, we cannot