

It also appears that all beginnings of social and moral Order, as likewise its restoration, when seriously endangered, can be traced to the rise and influence of great Personalities. Notably that world of Ideas which is comprised under the name of the Christian religion, confirms on a large scale, and more than any other preceding or subsequent event, the two conclusions which we drew from the observation of the individual mind.

A sudden and unexpected appearance of a new social order, based on the simplest of moral precepts, and connected with a personal influence of a unique character, is seen to be the characteristic of the genesis and early growth of Christian life and thought—so much so that they have been thought to deserve, *par excellence*, the name of Revelation.

More than any other event in history have the simple yet mysterious beginnings of the Christian dispensation succeeded in raising to the high level of a great Reality those ideals of a moral and spiritual life which in many varied forms appeared in the pre-Christian civilisations without being able to establish themselves as a great world-power.

The whole of modern History has been influenced by the dominating force of this great structure of Christian thought and Christian life. It was subjected to the most virulent attacks in the earlier centuries of our era, and to relentless criticism in more recent times; it has not fallen, but steadily gained ground. It has been misused and perverted as an instrument for gaining and extending purely