

THE first volume by Mr. Arthur C. Hill had the suggestive title, *Shall We Do Without Jesus?* It was a frank and fearless discussion of the indispensable place of our Lord in modern life and the important contribution which his teachings have made to religious thought. This second volume is a sequel to it and deals with the demands of Jesus on his disciples. The discussions are in the form of essays which are written in a vigorous style. He first discusses the great outstanding Christian principles and then gives an illuminating exposition of those distinctive virtues which should characterize the followers of Jesus. The call is thus expressed: "The Christian disciple has often been the sentinel set to guard the treasures of the human spirit. Destroyer of the vile, preserver of the pure, he has been at once the breaker and the builder, the chosen agent of the Highest in the making of our world. It seems clear that if the moral wealth accumulated by humanity is not to be submerged, like a boat scuttled in mid-ocean by the waves of a new barbarism, we must look for protection to those who acknowledge, with open confession or with silent devotion, the authority of the Nazarene. The Christian disciple, fine flower of a culture at once human and divine, who carries the secret of a moral fortitude which is the glory of the world, must again prove himself the efficient champion of our race, our civilization, our faith." This is the kind of a book which meets the needs of our day. We have heard it said repeatedly in these recent months that Christianity has been discredited, and that all signs point to a speedy and complete collapse. This is the claptrap cant of the marketplace and of the street. It may doubtless be that the so-called Christianity of the churches has been found wanting, but the history of the church shows that more than once this has been the case, and men like Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Wesley, Edwards, and Moody have presented the Christianity of Christ as set forth in the pages of the New Testament to the world with very satisfactory results. Mr. Hill has written a volume which holds up the imperial and imperative standards of Christianity. He clearly demonstrates by sound reasoning and by numerous quotations from literature and history that the supreme mission of Jesus was to make disciples of a

virile character who will not be embarrassed or overwhelmed in the presence of difficulty. "To be safe on the high seas the man in command must be ever on the watch. Feasting at the table the passengers know not the nearness of death until the keel grinds upon the iceberg or the side is pierced by the bow of another ship. So the men who are fighting for religion need to know that they are never less safe than when all seems going smoothly and trouble is far removed from their minds. To confront good hap or ill with impartial mind, content to face the worst and yet grateful for the best when it comes, this is the mark of the saint of God." It is well to be reminded that Christianity is equal to all the religious and moral demands of the Occidental as well as in the Oriental world, in times of peace no less than in times of war. Speaking of the excellence of the Christian teaching Mr. Hill says: "Christian teachers have been far too timid in their enforcement of Christian morals upon the public conscience. They have been content to modify and whittle away the plain precepts of Christ until there has been little difference between the judgment of the nonreligious man and that of the professed disciple. We need a restatement of the claims of Christ on the public conscience. If the Christian religion is to affect mankind the moral precepts that are bound up with it must be much more boldly proclaimed." There are striking chapter headings which appeal at once to the imagination and the sense of ideal values. For instance, Book II is on "Virtues that Count." Here are some of the titles: "Acquainted with Wrath" refers to righteous indignation; "With the Colors" deals with loyalty and courage; "Without Prejudice" refers to impartiality; "Enough is as Good as a Feast" considers temperance; "The Blessed Art of Doing Without" discusses contentment; "For Benefits Received" is a chapter on gratitude. Book III is on "Children of Earth," and he takes up the following subjects: "Our Fatherland," which deals with patriotism; "Christ or Thor?" which discusses war; "With the Rulers of Men" and "At the Feet of the Rabbis" consider respectively politics and education. One of the last chapters is entitled "By Eastern Windows," in which Mr. Hill deals with the subject of prayer in quite an original way. He says: "The place of intercessory prayer has never been accurately defined by Protestant teachers, but the experience of many men makes it probable that there is in such prayer a salutary influence of immense value. How is it, then, that we do not labor to exert this remedial skill? In the quiet of the nighttime, when the evil of the day is curtained from men's eyes, why do we not turn our thoughts to those who watch in sorrow and tears the passing of the dilatory hours? We who believe in philanthropy, who fly from the sight of starved bodies and shrunken limbs and weep at the pictured image of a strangled dog, have we no moments to spare for man's spiritual ills?" This volume is a splendid study of Christian ethics. There is here plentiful material for the Christian thinker and much help to the preacher who must so commend the exalted virtues and glories of the Christian life from the pulpit that his hearers will be pressed to accept them as their standards for daily living.