

THE PLOT.

CHRISTIANITY occupies an entirely singular and unique position in the world by reason of what, if it were to be appreciated by literary standards, might be called its "plot." Its distinctive is not merely that it introduces a Person who includes and surpasses all the highest and purest ideals of the race, but does this in a way that, as an appeal to the soul of man, cannot be surpassed by the most ingenious imagination of the human intelligence. If any one doubts this, let him try to sketch out a religious scheme that shall be more effective and acceptable.

In Christianity One, before whom heart and conscience must bow in adoration, veils His glorious majesty that He may draw near to man in grace, and serve his need. The world, so susceptible to outward pomp and show, proves indifferent to moral excellence, and the Lord is despised, rejected, and slain. By divine power He rises and returns to the glory that claims Him, and there waits, watching over His own. If this is fiction, it is certainly the masterpiece of fiction, unequalled through all time.

But the best of all is yet to be told: the rejected Lord will come again in glory, His redeemed and glorified saints with Him. Any other religion that can propose a more glorious consummation than this will at least attract the attention of thoughtful people, but the

religion with a better plot or scheme than Christianity has not been announced during the 2,000 years that it has held the field, and we shall wait for it in vain.

Yet there is a circumstance that possibly has not received the attention that it deserves : a circumstance which, if not wholly certain, yet is very probable, and which will clothe the consummation of Christianity with even greater splendour than most believers anticipate. I mean, the possibility that the King, by the world rejected, will not return till He be by the world desired.

The course of events seems heading towards such a consummation. The perplexity of nations increases as never before. In spite of the best endeavours of the wisest statesmen, cosmos seems lapsing into chaos. The gangrene of anarchy has already ruined one mighty nation, and closely threatens the rest. The time may come when, men's hearts failing them for fear, they may begin to ask one another to whom they must entrust the control of world affairs, so as to at least save something out of the wreck of nations. Of course, the mass of mankind will be misled at first, and will build its hopes on the man of sin with his fair promises and covenants. But as things go from bad to worse, men will pay increasing attention to those who everywhere are preaching the gospel of *the kingdom*. Could our ear anticipate the discourse of one of the wayside preachers of those days, we might hear some-

thing like the following:—“Look round all states and nations, and where can you see one who is fit to cope with the world situation of to-day? Recall the great statesmen of bygone days, and say which of them, were he with us now, could deal efficiently with such unparalleled distress? Let your minds range across wide centuries in search of a deliverer, and say whom you would wish to name, amongst the greatest heroes of the past, as the one best fitted to save us in times like these. You may search the centuries and the continents in vain, yet there is One of whom the world in its pride once said, ‘We will not have this Man to reign over us,’ who is the only hope of the world in its woe to-day. **MAKE JESUS KING**, for it is the only hope for the world’s distress. Crown with the many crowns the Prince of peace, for only so can you end the world’s wars.”

And so the gospel of “the Kingdom” will spread from land to land, allowing men once more to hope. That does not mean that the world will be converted, but that men will very generally begin to understand that peace, prosperity and happiness would follow His rule, so that, when He shall come, it may be as “the desire of all nations.” He is not that yet, and one trembles to think of all this poor world must go through before men are brought to the point of longing for His return as the only acceptable solution to their distresses, yet (which is the theme of this paper) one sees at a glance

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how gloriously the "scheme" of Christianity will be vindicated, when even the most indifferent are brought to accept its glorious consummation as the world's only hope.

S. E. MCNAIR, *Brazil.*

**THE CRUELTY OF "CHRISTIAN
SCIENCE."**

IN presenting the conversion story of a young woman brought up from childhood in "Christian Science," a Canadian writer comments on the striking way in which the utter heartlessness of its theories is revealed. The tender mercies of Christian Scientists are cruel. Let no really sick person go to them for sympathy or help.

This story also touches upon another phase of this delusion,—its common fruit in the breaking up of family and home ties. What this young woman narrates of its effect in her home has been repeated in homes wherever its teaching has gone. This is even more cruel in its outcome than the heartless ignoring of the physical suffering of others.

And yet its adherents are blinded by the deceitfulness of its theories. They are so deluded that they easily believe a lie.

The Canadian writer referred to has the name of the young woman whose testimony follows but for the sake of her relatives withholds it