LIFE IN A LOOK

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Life in a Look by Maurice S. Baldwin

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MAURICE S. BALDWIN

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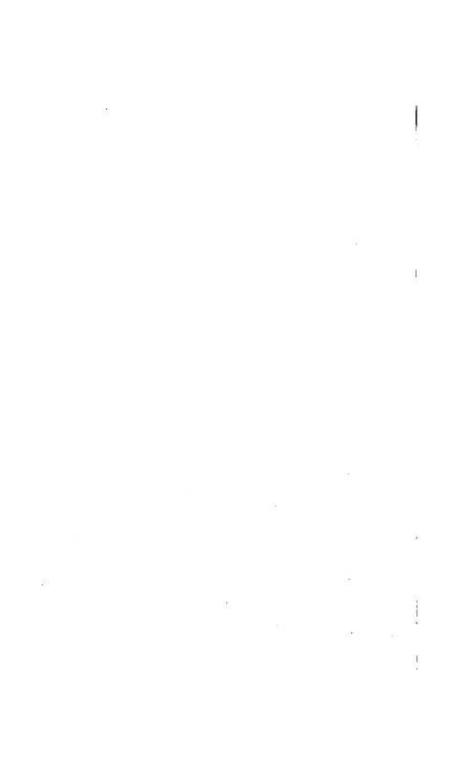
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CHAPTER I.

THE NECESSITY OF THE NEW BIRTH.

EAR Reader, am I wrong in supposing

If I am, and you really care nothing for the subject, please, nevertheless, read on. In these pages you will find nothing but that which really concerns YOURSELF; and that which concerns ourselves demands at least our careful attention. If, on the contrary, you really wish for this knowledge, then the very first truth you have to learn is: THE VITAL NECESSITY OF THE NEW BIRTH. This was the first doctrine our blessed Lord taught Nicodemus, and this is the first, I am sure, He would have me teach YOU.

In the third chapter of St. John's Gospel we read that Nicodemus, a learned ruler of the Jews, came to Jesus by night, apparently to inquire of Him the way of salvation. "Rabbi,"

said Nicodemus, "we know that Thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except God be with him." There is much to admire in Nicodemus. evidently had far juster views of the Lord Jesus than many of his own nation. The Pharisees used to say of Christ: " He casteth out devils by Beelzebub the chief of the devils." Others were heard to say: "He deceiveth the people." But Nicodemus uttered no such blasphemy; on the contrary, he thought the blessed Saviour was a true Prophet. He comes to Him and says: Rabbi, we know that Thou art a TEACHER COME FROM GOD. It was a great truth to know, even though he knew no more than this. for certainly Christ was a teacher and much more than a teacher; He was what no prophet ever was-not even such men as Isaiah or Daniel -THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Thousands in our day go as far as this, and here halt. Jews who reject Christ as their Redeemer, but yet in some sense consider Him a great Reformer; sceptics who would subvert, if possible, half the Bible; professing Christians, ignorant of the life that is in Christ-all may be heard to-day addressing the Lord Jesus in the exact words of Nicodemus: Rabbi, we know Thou art a teacher

come from God. Nothing more; not exclusively THE Teacher, but simply one of the many teachers come from God to enlighten and to bless the world. What Nicodemus had to learn -what thousands of professing Christians need to know; what indeed the whole world shall yet be made to see-is, that Christ is more than a teacher come from God; He is THE RESURREC-TION AND THE LIFE. Eternal life dwells IN HIM, "for as the Father hath life in Himself so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself." Therefore, until we know Christ as our LIFE, we know Him not. "He that hath the Son hath LIFE and He that hath not the Son of God hath NOT life." To this bear all the prophets witness: to this our Lord Himself and His Apostles unite their testimony, "That God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son."

And now, I will ask you carefully to weigh our Lord's answer to Nicodemus. It was one in every way momentous, and as such should seriously be considered. Its striking peculiarity is, that it seems to have no apparent connection with the words of Nicodemus; and yet, doubtless, it was the exact answer he needed—the one best suited to His spiritual wants. "I am