Why we fail as Christians

Hunter Robert
WHAT IS TRUTH?

After painting by Goy 1836
WHY WE FAIL AS CHRISTIANS

BY

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PREFACE

Accepting the second great commandment—we must love others as ourselves—as fundamentally necessary to a Christian's life, I have endeavored in this volume to consider all that obedience to it involves, and especially what the consequences would be to any man in present society who attempted to obey that commandment implicitly. I have sought to point out some of the obstacles which blocked the path of one really great spirit, who, with incredible perseverance, energy and devotion, strove to follow literally this teaching of the gospel and to become a worthy follower of Jesus. I mean Leo Tolstoy, who in his life and in his art labored for thirty years to be a meritorious expression of the Christ spirit.

Needless to say, I am not attempting here a comprehensive study of Christianity. Anyone who undertook to limit its scope to the relations between men, or to the problems of society, would lay himself open to just and serious criticism. There is something in Christianity for every soul; there is in it light for everyone in distress of mind and comfort for everyone in distress of body. There is no phase of life that Christianity fails to touch; and, therefore, we see scientists, psychologists, sociologists, theologians and men of every other conceivable intellectual, spiritual and social interest go to it as to a rich and inexhaustible quarry which never fails to reward them for their labor in working it. In this volume only one vein is followed, and yet it may prove the most valuable of all. It may be that here we shall find the precious metal from which all others are derived. That we must love others as ourselves is, to be sure, the second, not the first, com-