

which had been developed having dropped quite considerably during the last 20 or 30 years. Look at the ~~Re~~ Reformation. Two-thirds ~~of~~ of Europe reading the Bible. It looked as if the teaching of Luther would sweep over all of Europe. And then that very wonderfully clever organization of the Jesuits was founded, and theswept back over one-half of the territory that had been won by the Reformation. And ~~when~~ MacCaulay, one hundred years ago, remarked about the strange thing. That in southern ~~the~~ France, and in some other sections which he mentioned, which had been won back by the counter-Reformation, ~~that~~ during a period of two centuries a town would become entirely atheistic. Absolutely against everything Christian. It would be won ~~to a fervent~~ to a fervent Roman Catholicism. It would again become thoroughly atheistic, and it would be an alternation back and forth. Two or three times in a town. With never once an entrance of Protestantism. I am sure if Luther had foreseen that such a thing could ~~happen~~ happen, he would have been almost tempt~~ed~~ed to give way to despair. But it ~~happened~~ happened. The Devil was ~~able~~ able to sew up a large area in which, ~~until~~ within the last ~~five~~ fifty years, there was no more preaching of the Gospel. It simply was kept out. And those wonderful people, people with as fine potentialities as any in the world, were simply unable to hear the preaching ~~of~~ of the Gospel because it was completely kept out. And the same refers to South America. And other sections. Satan is marvellously effective ~~in~~ during this age. And when you build up a wonderful ~~in~~ fine work, don't be ~~surprised~~ surprised if after your death, even if during your life, there is a ~~ter~~ tremendous overturning, and ~~his~~ disappointments, and God builds up new work elsewhere which ~~we~~ do His will.

But God gives Satan a large amount of rope during this present age. And the New Testament statements, I don't think are addressed just to the people of that time. But I think they are addressed to all of us, that we as strangers and pilgrims in the earth should abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. We are here, and we should serve Christ to the utmost of our ability here and now. But we should recognize that we are