

E. H. Barnes

12th January, 1952,

Dear Bishop,

Thank you for writing so kindly on my very amateur attempt at a sermon. It was, of course, not meant to be very ambitious or comprehensive, but particularly to show that one can give one's thoughts consistently to a scientific discipline without being completely alienated from the Christian tradition.

Rather to my surprise, several of my colleagues expressed themselves as deeply moved, though all I had intended was a simple confession of a personal point of view. On the question you raise, I wonder if the following seems to you at all like sense?

Man is in process of creation, and that process involves something we can call improvement, in which Man's own co-operation is necessary. Hence the need to become acutely conscious of evil or quasi evil in ourselves and in the world, just as the increase of natural knowledge requires a corresponding consciousness of ignorance. Complacency in either respect would seed quite deadly to progress.

Thank you for suggesting publication. My vanity had not reached so high, though I am tempted to think that the analogy of the senses may prove helpful. I wonder if you know Eric Heaton, now Dean ^{at} of Caius, who induced me to deliver it?

With best wishes for the coming year.