

RELIGION AS FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

treasures of light and truth toward a better and fuller view of inspiration and the place of the Bible in the life of the Church.

In the words of our text Peter gives a clue to the only view which will harmonize with the facts of experience and the teachings of the spirit. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." Though these words refer especially to prophecy, they are equally applicable to every phase of revelation. How this is so may best be seen by reverting to the thesis we tried to establish last Sunday evening. Religion is friendship with God. It is the living communion of a human soul with the living God, through His spiritual presence in the world. It is as close and intimate a thing as the fellowship of friend with friend, on the street, in the market-place, or in the home. It does not banish God to a far-off Heaven, or shut Him up between the two covers of a book, but knows Him "closer than breathing and nearer than hands and feet." That hallowed relationship is the great revealer. If you want to truly know what a man is you must know him as a friend, for friendship lays bare the inner springs of conduct and of character, reveal-