

APPENDIX.

Had space permitted, some observations might have been made on another "reality"—the presence of the Lord Jesus with his people. That Jesus is present with his people, that he helps, blesses, comforts them—is believed by all true christians. But there is reason to fear that it is held by many rather as a *truth* than as a *fact*, and that few of us so realize the fact as to deal with it practically, and to derive from it the relief and comfort which might be enjoyed. We seem to regard Christ as an *abstraction* rather than as a *person*, and to reason about him instead of dealing with him. Thoughtful men, especially those of cold, metaphysical natures, are more likely to be affected in this way than those whose religion mainly consists in emotion; yet all are liable to the evil—for *it is* an evil, and a very injurious one. Brethren! let us entertain worthier thoughts of our Lord: If a friend of ours is on the other side of the globe, and we need his advice or help, we know how to put ourselves into communication with him, and we have no doubt of the reality of that communication, or of its results. Our Lord and Saviour is farther from us than any of our fellow-men can be; and yet he is ineffably near; and what is more, he does not need to wait till he is applied to, since he knows us altogether, and has a perfect understanding of every case. Let us regard him as our friend—living—ever-living—ever living "to make intercession for us"—and go to him in all exigencies "in full assurance of faith."

I append some passages from the writings of the Rev. Richard Cecil, which appear to me strikingly illustrative and confirmatory of the statements already made :