

THE HIGHER LIFE.

FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST.

BY THE REV. F. BOTTOME, D.D.

"My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God."—Psa. xlii. 2.

I LONG for rest, for rest of soul,
For something more than self-control ;
For something more than pride has sought
In creed or settlement of thought ;
For something more than art can teach,
Or hand of cultured science reach ;
I long for rest, but find no goal
Wherein to rest my weary soul.

I long for rest, yet not from strife ;
With sin, or weariness of life ;
My longing is a thirst that springs
From tasting of diviner things :
It is as though an absent friend
Should some endearing token send,
Which sets me all aglow to see
And bring him face to face with me.

It is as when the moistened clay
Upon the long-sealed eye-balls lay,
And to the opening vision light
Brought sudden consciousness of sight,
And men, as trees, went walking by ;
Trembling, I see the light, but cry,
" Yet touch mine eyes again, I pray,
And bring me into perfect day ! "

I must have rest ! but rest must be,
O Christ, in knowing only Thee !
Not heaven itself can satisfy,
Nor yet Thy grace my want supply ;
Love seeks not gift that does not bring
The Giver with the meaner thing.
I long for Thee ! nor will I rest
Until I lean upon Thy breast.

A DEVOTIONAL SPIRIT.

Separation from sin is the first requisite to a devotional spirit.