

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

It has ever been, and still is, the belief of the Society of Friends that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God ;¹ that, therefore, the declarations contained in them rest on the authority of God Himself, and that there can be no appeal from them to any other authority whatsoever ; that they are able to make wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus. " These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God ; and that believing ye might have life through His name."² The Scriptures are the only divinely authorized record of the doctrines which we are bound as Christians to accept, and of the moral principles which are to regulate our actions. No one can be required to believe as an article of faith any doctrine which is not contained in them ;³ and whatsoever any one says or does contrary to the Scriptures, though under profession of the immediate guidance of the Holy Spirit, must be reckoned and accounted a delusion of the Devil.⁴

MAN'S CREATION AND FALL.

It pleased God, in His wisdom and goodness, to create man out of the dust of the earth, and to breathe into his nostrils the breath of life, so that man became

¹ 2 Tim. iii. 15-17.

³ Isaiah viii. 20.

² John xx. 31.

⁴ Rev. xxii. 18, 19 ; Gal. i. 8-12.