

whole of life a holiday of peace and brightness, and every act and word a progress of the mind in truth, the heart in goodness, and the life in happiness. Say not this is fable. It was fact once. It took form and body in the Son of God. It was perfectly verified in one, imperfectly in many. It may be here and now in these hearts, in these lives; it may come in ever-increasing beauty, and ever-brightening hope, and holy power. It is the divine life of the soul, for which our heart and flesh cry out unto God. They plead with us not to torment them any more with our excesses and sins, with our worldly sorrows and mean desires, but to bow to the mild yoke of Christ, and find rest unto our souls.

SPIRITUAL KINDRED.

BY REV. E. S. GANNETT, D. D.

“WHOSOEVER shall do the will of my Father who is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother.” If we found language like this recorded as having fallen from the lips of any one but him to whom they are ascribed by the Evangelists, we should consider them liable to the charge of extravagance or the suspicion of affectation. But as we read them in the life of Jesus, they seem to be perfectly in place and character — to belong to such instruction as in our usual habits of association we connect with his ministry; so distinct, and yet so natural, is the tone of spirituality which pervades his teaching.

His meaning in this declaration is obvious. There are higher and closer relations than those of natural kindred