

sickly, spoiled, and petted experience. The Proprietor assured me of His ability and willingness to handle all He could get, providing His terms were fully accepted, and strictly adhered to. Upon inquiring the terms, He said, "Commit your experience to Me, and let it remain with Me forever, and go in peace and live with Me from henceforth." Then He said, so very kindly, "Don't you see that all this time you have been paying more attention to your experience than you have paid to Me; My place in your life has been so crowded by the room you have given to your experience." Oh, yes, I saw it all then, and did feel sorry that I had been so stupid as not to have seen that before; but wasn't I some tons lighter as I walked away, after having deposited my load; and oh, I am glad-hearted now. I have, on all proper occasions, been telling it ever since; some have believed and many have doubted. Some fear that I am depending too much on the Lord, and that some day I shall fall by the hand of mine enemy. However, my intention is, God helping me, to take the risk. I am inclined to think that no one yet went to hell for making too much of God; but some may have gone there for professing godliness and denying the power.

Anyway, I have gone back on my experience, and am wonderfully relieved.

FOLLOWERS OR WITNESSES.

Words are the principal medium through which the conceptions of one mind reach the perceptive powers of another. It is, therefore, imperative on those who would influence others by spoken or by written speech that they know the exact meaning of the words they use. The words of the New Testament will bear careful scrutiny, and will be found well chosen for the purposes designed by their use.

Very many words and phrases which pass current in religious circles are either empty of all true meaning or represent that which is not according to the mind of God. For instance, the hymn "Nearer, My God to Thee," has become widely popular in the evangelical

churches, and is sung even by churches that are not described as evangelical, although it postulates a state of things which is decidedly different from the piety of either the Old or the New Testament. For in Deut. iv. 7, this is written, "For what great nation is there that hath a God so nigh unto them as the Lord our God is, whosoever we call upon Him;" Ps. xxxiv. 18, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart;" Ps. cxlv. 18, "The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon Him." And in the New Testament it is this: John xiv., "We (that is the Father and the Son) will come unto him and make our *abode* with him." Yet that hymn shows that the general consciousness of those who use it is that God is at a considerable distance.

Having examined the passages in the New Testament in which the words "follow," "following," "followeth," "followed," occur, we find that at least forty-five times does some one of these words occur, having direct reference to the movement of a person or persons after the visible person of Christ. He adopted the method familiar to Oriental peoples, by which a teacher moved from place to place, with a company of his disciples "following" him. That involved on the part of the disciples, a giving up of former habits and occupations in life, and a preference of Him to all other teachers whatever. Some followed Jesus temporarily, a few permanently, bearing the disabilities and enjoying the priceless moral benefits of His companionship for the three years of His public career. But He is no longer tangible to the physical sense, no longer confined to any particular locality, no longer under necessity of moving as men move when they would make their presence felt in another place; so the kind of following which separated His disciples from other men is no longer possible to the believer. "Even though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet, now we know Him so no more."

"Wherefore if any man is in Christ," A.D. 60 or 1891, "he is a new creature, the old things," of the time of Christ's visible presence, "are passed away, behold, they are become new." And there