

RELIGION AS FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

becomes gladness, loss of substance becomes increase of grace, and all these successive gains tell us as nothing else can that the last change of all our earthly experiences, the mystery of death, will do for us what it did for Him, will usher us into the fulness of life that never ends. In Him we live a life in which time and space are but modes of being, a life wider and greater than they, which will go on to ever larger fulness when they shall be no more.

If friendship with God in Christ is your joy in this life, the thought of the future life ought to thrill you with joy unspeakable, for

“Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, sweet well of love ;
The streams on earth I’ve tasted,
More deep I’ll drink above :
There to an ocean fulness
His mercy doth expand,
And glory—glory dwelleth
In Immanuel’s land.”

What does it matter what the scenery of heaven may be, or what the environment in which our souls exist! The thing which meets and satisfies every true longing of our hearts here is friendship with Christ, is the sense of His dwelling with us and in us, and