

If to such passages we add the well-nigh innumerable affirmations which are made respecting the Gospel, the Word of God, the Truth, Revelation, the personal agencies especially of Christ and of the Spirit in mediating the knowledge and experience of Divine Realities, we surely cannot be in doubt touching the precise nature and scope of its claims to inerrant and infrangible authority.

THE WITNESS OF EXPERIENCE.

The history of Scripture in the experience of the world is in exact accord with these claims, and fully sustains them. It *does* make wise to salvation. It *is* profitable for discipline in righteousness. In the spiritual life of humanity the words of Christ have proved themselves to be spirit and life. Christ as the Life is the Light of the world. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The voice of the written Word is the voice of the personal Word, and is therefore mighty and living. It speaks with the authority of Law, which as Logos is enthroned eternally in the bosom of God. It finds an echo in the conscience. No one who obeys it is led astray, or lost. The wayfaring man who walks its paths of life and peace, though a fool, will not err therein. All who surrender their hearts and lives to its claims find life eternal, peace indestructible, a joy unspeakable and flooded with glory.

It should be noted still further that these results have thus far been secured for the most part with a faulty text of Scripture, for which no well-informed reader would dream of claiming absolute inerrancy. They have been secured also notwithstanding a popular interpretation of many statements of Scripture respecting matters of secular and minor importance, which no intelligent person to-day is prepared for a moment to defend. Thus, whatever may be said of the actual teaching of the first chapter of Genesis, or the story of the Flood, or the early chronology of Scripture as bearing on the antiquity of man, it is well known that for ages these were universally understood to teach what the physical science of our day has shown to be against historic fact. Yet these scientific errors, which, whether they were in the original text or not, were universally read into it, did not in the slightest whit impair the spiritual authority or value of Scripture during the long ages in which they passed for truth.

It is equally noteworthy and significant on the other side that the attempt to co-ordinate secular inerrancy in Scripture with spiritual inerrancy, and to condition the latter by the former, has ever been most injurious in its consequences. It has fomented the antagonism between science and religion, occasioned panic after panic respecting the foundations of the faith, coerced and wrested the interpretation of the text, leading to an exegesis which has failed to satisfy intelligent believers as to its adequacy, or intelligent unbelievers either as to its adequacy or its candor, which has thus repelled instead of conciliating fearless inquiry, and has kept alive, instead of resolving honest doubt.