

PEACE IN BELIEVING.

v.

DEAR Friend.—In considering your letter of —— I ask myself if the points which have especially struck me are actually those which express your state of soul. There are other things in what you have written, and I will now have a few words with you as to these.

“I had hoped,” you say, “to be able to tell you that I had found peace in my soul, through the blood of Christ; but it is more than a month since my conscience was awakened, and I am still in the same state.” You express anxiety, even fear, as to this. Whence proceeds this anxiety, my dear friend; this desire for peace and the consciousness that it is only by the blood of Christ that it can be found? Is not all this an indication of the work of the Spirit in you? Instead of being discouraged by these words, “It is by the Spirit that the truth is received,” be assured that it is by the Spirit you have already been taught and encouraged to hope for further light. Your desire to know Christ, to have peace by His blood is not a natural desire; God Himself has produced it and will certainly satisfy it.

In referring to the long years you have passed in sin, you draw some consolation and hope from the history of the woman in Luke xiii, who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and who at last was cured by Jesus. “Oh! if I was only able to put my

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