

for you are a perennial. Nor would the mustard seed provide lodging for the fowls of the air if it decided half-way along its development to become a water-lily or a cucumber. And so you must keep right along on the path you have set yourself if you ever expect to get twigs on you. The persistent unchanging steadiness of the mustard seed is the power of faith, and if you have this faith and use it in your own garden people will by-and-bye begin to recognize you as one of the Kingdom.

For the Kingdom of Heaven is likened unto a grain of mustard seed.

UNENROLLED THEOSOPHISTS.

IV. ELIAS HICKS.

IT is interesting to note how comparatively brief is the time required for the heresy of one period to become the orthodoxy of another, and also how many lapses from so-called orthodoxy have been through the path of mysticism.

When, in 1382, John Wickliffe declared that prescribed forms of prayer were contrary to Christian liberty, and that each person should approach and address God in accordance with the dictates of his own heart, he paved the way for the subsequent utterances of Martin Luther.

When, in 1521, Luther substituted justification by faith for justification by works, this was once more an effort to come into direct rather than indirect relations with God.

In 1646, George Fox, meditating * upon the text, "God who made the world dwelleth not in temples made with hands," had it "opened to him" that the temple of the Lord is the heart or soul of man, and should be dedicated to His service; and that when so consecrated God will indeed enter into His kingdom. There were many to persecute the gentle Quaker, but the divine presence was to him a reality.

And when, in 1827, Elias Hicks, following still deeper the shining of the "inner light," declared that all men are divine, and that through this divinity all may have immediate revelation of truth, he was only following to a further analysis the declaration of the first departure—earlier by many years than Wickliffe—from the first orthodoxy.

There is no reasoning upon ordinary lines that will account for Elias Hicks. He was born in 1748 in Queen's county, Long Island. His father and mother were not especially interested in religious matters, nor associated with any religious organiza-

* "The silver thread that runs through all men's lives is the mysterious power of meditation."—*Old Tibetan Verse*.