

all that God will or may unfold to or require of him,

We hold that, in so far as we understand the testimony of the Bible, when man was first fully completed by the breathing into the physical man, or the first nature, the breath of life, and he became a living soul, the only means of communication between that living soul and its Divine Father was by the immediate revelation or inspiration hereinbefore referred to. And while it is true that the number of writers of the Bible were very few in comparison with the whole number of men and women who lived during the period of years of which it is a history, it by no means follows that the inspiration by which all classes of Christians profess and acknowledge the truths of the Bible to have been written, was simply confined to the few who wrote it, but that it is up to the time when the Lord answered the prayer of the people of Israel at the foot of Mt. Sinai, and gave them Moses as a mediator between Him and them, the universal method of communication between God and man.

In fact, we have no record that any other means were extant. There was no compilation of inspired writings in that time to refer to. While it is evident from the record that some were especially inspired to declare what the Lord had instructed them to do, yet these declarations could not have been understood, except as God had prepared the minds of the hearers to comprehend them by his own revealing power, and then, as now, furnishing the evidence that what was spoken was designed to corroborate and confirm that already outlined, or given by the direct revelation of the Spirit to those spoken to; and I believe it will be conceded by all students of the Bible, that there are evidences running all through its pages, that the writers of it received their instructions regarding all the spiritual truths to which they refer, or bear testimony, by a direct revelation or inspiration from the Divine Spirit.

But as we trace the history of the

church called Christian, since the death of the Apostles or latest Scripture writers, there seemed to grow up among them the idea that with the death of these writers, all direct inspiration or revelation of either old or new truth had ceased, and then came practically the enunciation of the thought that God had consummated His purpose or process of inspiration in giving such books of the Bible as the majority of the revisors of such ancient religious writings as have been preserved and discovered down to the time of King James of England, regarded as canonical or sound, and that henceforward, man was to find in these accepted writings all of the law or knowledge of God necessary for him to know or accept to give him an entrance into heavenly joy, when he shall be permitted to enter the life eternal beyond this period of time.

In a time of deep conflict of soul and trouble of spirit, our predecessor, George Fox, found he could not discover by the reading of his Bible anything which satisfied or soothed and dispelled the anguish of his spirit, and when he counselled with the ministers who had been educated to preach their interpretation of the gospel of the Bible, they in turn were unable to give him the comfort he was seeking and could only direct him again to his Bible, which had failed to bring it to him, and when he turned from a dependence upon all these, and while alone under the broad canopy of the heavens, and in silent communion within himself, he found a revelation was being made to him, especially adapted to his then needs, and he recognized it to be an inspiration coming to him from a source higher than man, and it brought to him the comfort he had been seeking, it soothed the troubled spirit, quieted his doubts and fears, and brought the rest his soul had been longing for.

His soul became enlightened, his spiritual eyes were opened, and he saw through the clouds and mists with