

ENCOURAGEMENTS.

THE *Encouragements* to Dependence upon GOD are wonderful. They run all through the Bible. "Fret not thyself,"—so tenderly does GOD speak to us,—"else shalt thou be moved to do evil" (Ps. xxxvii. 8). And is it not so? Is it not when you have fretted yourself,—when you have been "in a fuss," that you have said things which you had better not have said, and done the very things which you ought not to have done, and lost the guidance of GOD, and the blessing of your Communion? 'Fret not thyself!' 'Put thou thy trust in the LORD, and be doing good; dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thou in the LORD, and He shall give thee thy heart's desire. Commit thy way into the Lord, and put thy trust in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. . . . Hold they still in the Lord, and abide patiently upon Him." (Ps. xxxvii. 3, 4, 5, 7). "Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee." (Ps. cxvi. 7). "I the Lord thy GOD will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. "I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known. . . . These things will I do, and will not forsake them." "They shall not be ashamed that wait for Me." (Isa. xli. 13; xlii. 16; xlix. 23). The Bible is full of encouragements to this spirit of Restful Dependence, from the beginning to the end.

A SKEPTICAL hearer once said to a Minister: "How do you reconcile the teachings of the Bible with the latest conclusions of science?" "I haven't seen this morning's papers," naively replied the Minister. "What are the latest conclusions of modern science?"

At the Presbyterian general assembly at Springfield, Ill., the Rev. John Butler, who has lived in China, said the other day that "the Chinese are natural born Presbyterians, and the Presbyterian system is precisely suited to their intellects and social habits" If anybody but a Presbyterian minister had said this the assembly would have risen with a great cry and earnestly desired to take him over to Gilgal and hew him in pieces before the Lord.

THE New York *Observer* (Presbyterian) says: "Protestants do not sufficiently utilize their large and costly houses of worship. Many of them are open only twice in a week, and then only for two services of one and a half hours each. That would be only 156 hours out of 8,760 hours in a year! During all those long hours, excepting for a wedding, funeral, or occasional service, the building stands closed. Is there no use to which Christians might put their churches during these days and months? Perhaps the time will come when Christians of the whole world will find it in their minds to offer daily sacrifice of their hearts in the house of God."

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