

the spiritual history of every devout heart is contained in those words that are "common" to all. That is just why that is its excellence, which those who do not know the philosophy of man, consider its fault—its *common* and *general* character. It asks what all men want. It gives voice to humanity's common needs, and offers common thanks for common blessings. And each soul finds, under those common formulas, the precise expression of its own special necessities or special thankfulness.
—*Selected.*

THE GOSPELS.

TAKE the Gospels away, and what a mockery is human philosophy. I once met a thoughtful scholar who told me that for years he had read every book which assailed the religion of Jesus Christ. He said that he should have become an infidel if it had not been for three things:

First, I am a man. I am going somewhere. I have read all that they can tell me. There is not one solitary ray of light upon the darkness. They shall not take away the only guide and leave me stone blind.

Secondly, I had a mother. I saw her go down into the dark valley where I am going, and she leaned upon an unseen arm as calmly as a child goes to sleep upon the breast of a mother. I know that was not a dream.

Thirdly, He said, with tears in his eyes, "I have three motherless daughters. They have no protection but myself. I would rather kill them than leave them in this sinful world if you could blot out

from it all the teachings of the Gospel."—*Bishop Whipple.*

"GIVING AN ANSWER."

ST. PETER is careful to tell Christians to "keep themselves posted" (as we say, in the dialect of our time,) so that when a stranger to the faith shall ask our reasons for holding certain doctrines, we can promptly answer. (I. Peter iii. 15.) I was present on a recent occasion when this was done most effectually. We were making our way down the crowded aisles of a little church, where we had been listening to a telling sermon on our SAVIOUR'S assurance to the sorrowing disciples that it was "expedient" for them that HE should go away, in order that the BLESSED COMFORTER might come.

The preacher had taken it for granted, that he was speaking to a Christian congregation, all who were present believed in God the HOLY GHOST. He, therefore, did not stop to prove the well-established fact that the HOLY GHOST *is* God.

In the midst of the throng was a man who did not believe this doctrine; and he said aloud, and in a defiant tone, "I shall be glad to have any one show me a place in the Bible where the HOLY GHOST is called God."

A layman, who heard him, forthwith responded, to his utter amazement, "Acts, 5th chapter, 3rd and 4th verses—"Ananias, why has Satan filled thine heart to lie to the HOLY GHOST? Thou hast not lied unto men but unto God."

Of course, no answer could be given.—*Selected.*