

RELATIONSHIP.

It is a familiar thought amongst us that we must be in a relationship before we can know the affections or discharge the duties which belong to it. This is a plain and undeniable truth. If a man were not a father, no amount of argument or explanation, could make him understand the feelings or affections of a father's heart; but the very moment he enters upon the relationship, he knows all about them.

Thus it is as to every relationship and position; and thus it is in the things of God. We cannot understand the affections or the duties of a child of God until we are on the ground. We must be Christians before we can perform Christian duties. Even when we are Christians, it is only by the gracious aid of the Holy Spirit that we can walk as such; but clearly if we are not on Christian ground, we can know nothing of Christian affections or Christian duties. This is so obvious, that argument is needless.—C. H. M.

Scripture, written for all, appeals to all. It refers for its proof to man's own heart and conscience. It offers itself as that which, as light, manifests itself to those who have eyes to see; as truth, to those who are of the truth; as a revelation which reveals; and he who has used the light knows for himself the power of it.—“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself.”—This is not credulity; this is not blind confidence in authority. Light is its own evidence, and it is the evidence which faith in Scripture hath in abundance to justify itself to us.—F. W. G.

TRUE GROWTH.

What Christian does not find as he reads the Bible over, new and deeper strata of meaning never seen before—new truths revealed and new beauties displayed. An old Christian said, “I am reading the Word of God. It is deep and rich, like the great heart of its Author. I have read now two hours and have not got over two verses. It will take me to all eternity to read it through.” So it was. He really found more in the Bible than other men did. He went deeper, and the deeper he went the richer did he find its precious ores of gold and silver.

So the Psalmist says, “Open Thine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.” Have you not become so ravished with love to this blessed book that you wanted to clasp it to your bosom and become purified with its spirit?

As you go down into its depths and find in each successive stratum of its deep thoughts new beauties and new fields of truth to explore, have you not been filled with intense desire to live long enough and have time and strength enough to see, to learn, and to enjoy it all! Like the successive landscapes as you ascend the lofty mountain's side, at each stage you see them spreading out in grander beauty and broader range—so, as you really study into the great and rich things of God's spiritual kingdom, there is no limit to this sweep of the knowledge of God; for the fields only become the broader and the more enchanting as you ascend. Do you not think that his soul must be truly blessed who eats and drinks and fills his soul with the grand things of God.—F.