

and on earth God is willing to be called the Father. This is the true relationship of love and safety, which neither life nor death has power to dissolve. Behold here a nobler lineage than was ever traced by genealogist or herald. God, Christ, and all pure and happy spirits calling the obedient Christian their child and brother.

AUTHORITATIVE CREEDS.

BY REV. H. GILES.

SUCH creeds disqualify the mind for the pursuit of truth, they generate mental apathy and mental dependence, and this is fatal in the very outset. To a spirit of inquiry there is needed an impulsive intellectual activity, and to this activity there is needed a desire for the thing to be attained, and a sense of its importance. There is no labor without motive; and if in religious belief, the creed has decided before-hand all that is necessary for my salvation, I have no necessity to take any more trouble in the matter. If I am to rest on authority at last, it is just as well for me to be satisfied with it at first;—if after toilsome inquiry, at the peril of my soul's eternal peace, the dogmas of the creed are those to which my conclusions must return, I had better be at once content;—if I must believe as the Church believes, if I must believe as the creed says I should believe, if I must believe as the priest declares my hope of heaven requires, if after criticism and research, long and patient, I must arrive at but one exposition of the Bible, it is but wisdom to spare myself from such a pressure of useless labor. But indolence