

pure injunctions, its solemn warnings, its lofty ideals, cannot be disregarded by one who is familiar with them, and has adopted them not only as his creed, but as his practical guide, without exciting in him painful self-accusations when he escapes from the whirl and passion of his outer life and is left alone with his own thoughts and God. If the allurements of the world and the temptations which spring from his own sensuous nature become too strong for him, so that he feels submission to them to be essential to his happiness, then one of two things is sure to follow, either he becomes wholly indifferent to the great fundamental truths of religion while nominally holding them, or he casts them from him because they stand as sentinels to warn him of the danger into which he is surely drifting. A great deal of the infidelity to Divine truth, of the antagonism to Christianity which prevails at present, has its root in men's passionate determination to do what seems good in their own eyes, and to gratify self, making it the be-all and the end-all of life. Talk of science leading men into unbelief, and no doubt some are seduced by it into the barren wilderness of unfaith ; but for every one who is tempted by the oppositions of science falsely so-called to fling aside the faith of Scripture there are ten, or even ten times ten, who repudiate all positive religion at the imperious bidding of their vices or their crimes. Let us not be afraid of science. Let us study its wondrous revelations with enthusiasm. They will broaden our views of the universe in which we live and move. They will intensify our reverence for the wisdom of Him who made and sustains all things. Let us read philosophy, too, and ponder well the problems of knowing and being which it is its function to solve. It will do us good. It will enable us to measure more accurately our own powers, and unfold to us the unity that runs through all created things. Science and philosophy are the servants of religion though they are sometimes compelled by its foes to assume a hostile attitude ; and all our study of them will be helpful to us in understanding the truth as it is in Jesus, and giving us a clearer apprehension of the faith once delivered to the saints. It is the insidious and plausible seductions of sin that we have most to fear. Our greatest peril lies in the temptation to make light of truthfulness, to get gain in ways that cannot be approved, to indulge the love of ease, to launch out into modes of living which our income cannot warrant, to be unfaithful to private or public trust, to neglect daily reading of Scripture and secret prayer to God to keep us from falling. Our faith will be more endangered by the allurements of our social