

### A TROUBLED DOCTOR.

A troubled doctor once said to an old Christian lady, whom he was attending, "Tell me just what it is you believe, and how you believe?" She answered, "I believe that God is satisfied with the work of His Son; that is what I believe; and I am satisfied with it; that is how I believe." If a person in whom we have entire confidence relate to us something, of which we have no personal knowledge, we find as a matter of experience that we accept his statement as true. If he gives us a promise, we find as a matter of experience that we trust in him to make good his word. Nor does it affect our belief, whether the statement or promise is made directly by mouth, or communicated in writing, or conveyed in print, for, after all, belief does not stop with the message received, but rests upon the person from whom it proceeds.

Hence, when the sinner says, as he often does, "I can't believe," the question might be asked, "Can't believe whom?" If there was a man living near him of the highest character and the most incorruptible integrity, of unquestioned veracity, famous for his public services, noted for his charitable deeds, a final authority upon all subjects submitted to his decision, and universally respected, and if the same sinner were found going about the streets, and saying, "I can't believe his testimony," the people generally would conclude that he was on a very low moral plane. Least of all would he plume himself, and least of all would he be regarded as worthy of special

respect, on account of his skepticism.

The man is on a much lower moral and spiritual plane when he says he cannot believe Christ, who speaks of his unbelief, not as a misfortune merely, but as a sin, nay, as the root sin. "He that believeth not shall be damned," Mark xvi. 16. "He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God," Jno. iii: 18. "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins; for if ye believe not that I AM ye shall die in your sins," Jno. viii. 24. When the Holy Ghost "is come, He will reprove the world of sin; . . . because they believe not on me," Jno. xvi. 8, 9. Hence we are not surprised to find the Word of God declaring positively, "Whosoever is not of faith is sin," Rom. xiv. 23; and "without faith it is impossible to please Him," Heb. xi. 6.

On the other hand faith is everywhere represented as well-pleasing to Him, as the hand that receives whatever it asks, as opening the way to manifold and marvellous blessing.

The best definition of a Christian is that which Christ Himself has given: "Not every one that saith unto Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." The secret of an earnest life is in the exhortation of Paul: "I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be ye not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect Will of God."