

when you have acquired the knowledge to be found there, and only there, and are qualified to 'give a reason for the hope that is in you,' then if you find either my wife or myself deviating in our instructions from the simple truth, as it is revealed by our Saviour, by His Prophets and Apostles, I will thank you for correction, and submit gratefully to your reproofs."

"I had no intention of entering on such a discussion, or of giving you so much trouble Sir," said Philip. I never thought of venturing to dispute such points with you, who are of course so much better informed on them than I am." Here Amy could not keep silent any longer: "Oh, cousin Philip," she said, "were you not just saying what you would tell Mr. Arnold about his sermons, and what you would say to Mrs. Arnold about her lessons to us? Oh, for shame, cousin Philip, you only said such naughty things to us because you thought we would not know any better; was not that very wrong in you?"

The Rector smiled at Amy, and said, "your little cousin has anticipated something that I had to say, for I have really felt some fear of your influence with these young people, and that your levity of speaking and judging of things sacred, should in time affect the seriousness and earnestness with which they are entering upon their Scripture studies. Let me then entreat you to consider well how deeply responsible you will be, if you lead them to think lightly of the hopes and fears of a future state. It is not a question of life and death that rests on their receiving or rejecting salvation, on such terms as it has pleased God to offer it to his creatures, but a question of eternal condemnation or of eternal safety, and in this tremendous and awful alternative you have been thoughtlessly casting all your influence into the scale of this world's interests, for yourself as well as for them."

"You represent the matter in a very serious light," replied Philip, "and I dare say all you say is perfectly right, but I confess that I have no faith in any great appearance or profession of religion in *young* people;