

THE RELIGION OF BURNS.

We may safely divide all literature into two classes, that of Knowledge and that of Power. According to Paul all the literature of Knowledge shall pass away. How true this is. All books of science, of investigation, of exploration grow old, become useless and moulder among the dust and cobwebs of the attic. An old book which deals simply with the question of Knowledge is a relic for the curious rather than a help to the student. Who to-day reads the first books on Botany, Mechanics, Medicine or even History? These are numbered with the dead and rightly so, for the tree of Knowledge has grown to such an extent, that we find the latest descriptions of it all we have time to master, and if we undertook to read what men had to say of it each year of its growth, the task would not only be endless, but wearisome and unprofitable. Knowledge as material may be a part of the foundation of Power—but Power is better defined as that which works out Knowledge; in other words, we desire to attain a certain object, Knowledge furnishes us with the way—but Power supplies the life which follows the way.

Now while the literature of Knowledge passes away, the literature of Power maintains its place. It is this literature which gives life its inspiration. From the beginning of books down to the present day it has spoken to the heart. It has searched and appealed to the inner life. It has attempted the explanation of life's mysteries, waved high the banner of hope, wrought all changes, healed wounds and broken promises, delivered the mind from bondage, relieved the distressed, brought out the faded lines, wrote the story anew, clothed the field and forest, brushed away the tear, restored the failing heart, fanned the dwindling fire, mended the bruised reed, filled the storehouse, built the temple, paid the debt and made the dream reality. How necessary this conception of literature is to those who are endeavoring to lift humanity to the vision ground of earth's heaven-painted picture we who feel the woes of mankind and perceive the temptations