

scriptures of truth may contain the words of God when the minds of men were inspired by the in-breathing, in-speaking spirit to write. But men must have found the truth by some other means than by the written letter. I honor the scriptures of truth, for they strengthen my convictions by their corroborating testimonies, and help to fan into a consuming fire my faith. Let us not slight them, but be careful about the higher word. Let us obey that whenever we hear it speaking in the soul. I recognize the Christ of God in the world and among mankind long before Jesus lived. "If thou doest well thou shall be accepted."

I am not sorry on account of the spirit of inquiry of this age. I feel like encouraging it. I feel that it has a right to be answered as far as it can be. But man can only stir up the mind by way of remembrance; he can only direct another to the first great source of divine power, life and light. What if the faith of others does not square exactly with our own, or that their work may be different. "What is that to thee, follow thou me." Enter into the garden of our own heart and till it and tend it. I do not fancy a man being placed in an outward garden where he had particular and special privileges over the rest of his kind, but that all are equal. God looked upon all he had created and pronounced it good, very good. So have all lives been good since, for all have been of God. But whence the fallen countenance or sin: Man cannot create something out of nothing. It comes from his free agency. He is endowed with the privilege of choice; he is left to follow the right or the wrong. God does not employ his authority and omnipotence to force men to be good, to drive them into heaven. But he desires that all may come in. "If there was not room in my Father's house I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." The grace of God that bringeth salvation is uni-

versal, and hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world." But if we say we believe in God and in his son Jesus Christ, and in the scriptures and do not these other things we are none of his. I do not esteem that religion to be worth the lightest down that flutters in the breeze that cannot go out into the world of society, of business and of politics, that we cannot live out each day and each hour of our lives. I have tasted both kinds of pleasure, both sides of life, and I know a little of what I say. There is nothing in the pleasures of this world worth living for. They do not afford true happiness. When the mind's eye is raised above things uncongenial to the soul it will behold the fields of God's sowing already white unto harvest waiting for the laborers, and that field is found in thine own heart, and the labor that we are to perform is that we may have the spirit of love to rule in our hearts. We are all children in the school of Christ and God is our teacher. Let us study the lesson our Heavenly Father is pleased for us to learn, for it will be the best suited to our greatest needs. Let us find out our own selves. "The proper study of mankind is man." A great privilege is granted us that our lives may be preserved from a condition of murmuring and complaining, even though the severest trials may pass over us. If there should be a requirement made of us that seems like the parting with an only son let us still have faith in God's wisdom and love and he will not permit us to commit a wrong. I like to revert back to the case of Abraham and Isaac, as it affords a deep study of human nature. Abraham *thought* that he was commanded of God to offer up his son. I give Abraham credit for honesty, that he fully believed that God did require the sacrifice. But the result left no room for doubt. God does not demand any unreason-