

has been aimed at than to direct attention to these several topics, and to offer a few suggestions. Let them be taken for what they are worth. If they shall serve to quicken the religious life, to awaken the slumbering energies, to show the necessity of a stronger faith, and greater courage, and an increase of true religious knowledge, in our churches,—if they shall tend to promote union and co-operation, and to correct faults in regard to some practical matters, which are quite too common, and of no small importance,—they will have accomplished all of which they were intended. But whether they do this or not, the words of the Apostle may have a fitting application: “If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, *think on these things.*”

THE RELATION BETWEEN POETRY AND WORSHIP.

BY REV. JAMES MARTINEAU.

WORSHIP is an attitude which our nature assumes, *not for a purpose, but from an emotion.* Whenever it is genuine, it is the natural and spontaneous utterance of a mind possessed by the conception of the infinite relations in which we stand, and aspiring towards a point of view worthy of their solemnity. And though it breathes forth the deepest and greatest of desires, it is essentially an end, and not a means; and, like the embrace of friendship, or the kiss of domestic affection, loses all its meaning, when adopted from conviction of its reasonableness, or with a view to personal advantage. Those who ask, or