

INWARD PEACE.

BY REV. G. W. BRIGGS.

INWARD peace is the fruit of an absolute trust. It belongs not then to that state of mind which clings intensely in hope or love, to any imagined arrangements of providence, either in the present time, or the coming future. It arises only in that entire submission of the will, which greatly ceases to question or to speculate. In the instant when man begins to question the ways of providence, his peace is disturbed. Why doth it remove the young and the innocent, he sometimes asks, and long spare the abandoned sinner, whose presence is pollution and wo? Why do some go in quick repeated bereavements to the grave, and others stand at the same hearthstone in an unbroken circle, through many flying years? Why doth judgement sleep long ages over the oppressions of the earth, and the wail of the injured seem to be uttered in vain? One suggestion of this course of reflection will suffice. Hosts of mysteries crowd around us when we enter it with a strange and fearful aspect. We cannot solve one single problem of that appalling crowd. Clouds and darkness are round about the throne. Ceases all such vain speculation. It is the temptation of every living heart to say, my lot is strange and dark. In other circumstances, however easy would have been the way of life? Ah! blaspheme providence no more, thou short-sighted soul, even by the momentary thought that God hath not placed thee in the best possible position in the broad universe for thy peculiar discipline. In things too minute to be seen by the unassisted eye, as science proves,