

PEACE, PEACE, WHEN THERE IS NO
PEACE.

IF we consider the value of an immortal soul in the light of scripture, we shall not think any care or anxiety too much for its salvation. Sometimes it may be a great trial to an affectionate heart to disturb the repose of one who is apparently dying, but unprepared for death. A false peace, a false hope, has lulled the soul to sleep on the slippery brink of hell. The delusion of Satan has been successful. But, alas, the question of sin has never been raised, the holiness of God has never been thought of, the conscience has never been exercised, and God, as the judge of sin, is unknown.

When this is apparent, what is to be done? There must, unquestionably, be plain speaking, however tender the affection. It is a question of life and death—of eternal life and eternal death. We must see and bring such an one face to face with God about sin; as the Psalmist expresses it, "Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight; that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when Thou judgest." It is only in such close quarters with God that the sinner can learn God's thoughts about sin, and about himself as a sinner. But those who have had the experience of such visits to sick chambers, know the difficulties and hindrances attending such work. The sleepy conscience is unwilling to be disturbed, God's estimate of sin is a most unwelcome sound;