

false as the other. They are another example of the many false ideas which theologians have introduced into the pure and rational religion taught by Jesus of Nazareth, but which science and a more reasonable interpretation of the Bible are fast sweeping out of existence. I believe all men are responsible creatures; that God never condemned an irresponsible child; that Christ is not material, but rather a saving and redeeming principle, spiritual in nature, and adapting Himself to the condition of every rational being in every age of the world—a Divine influence coming in contact with the spiritual nature in man and affording the conditions for the soul's highest development. He is indeed that "true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Now every man receives this light. It shows him the right and the wrong. It tells him to follow the right. This makes him a responsible creature. Sin is the transgression of the law. This is the law which, if he break, makes man a sinner, but which, if he keep, makes him an heir to the kingdom, even joint heir with Jesus Christ, whether he be Jew or Gentile, bond or free, white or black, "heathen" or the most favored in our land. Peter declared: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness (or rightness) is acceptable to Him." Joseph Cook and many of the best thinkers in the Christian world today acknowledge that every man who follows the highest light given him is saved. This is nothing new to Quakerism, for the Society of Friends has been teaching it from its rise to the present day. It is scriptural; it is reasonable; it is scientific. With Longfellow, I am one of those

"Who believe that in all ages
Every human heart is human,
That in even *savage* bosoms
There are longings, yearnings, strivings,
For the good they comprehend not,
That the feeble hands and helpless,
Groping blindly in the darkness,
Touch God's right hand in that darkness,
And are lifted up and strengthened."

If the Andover controversy were between the false and the true, I would have no doubt

of the ultimate result. But even if, as I believe, it is between two false theories, I doubt not it will lead nearer to the truth—to this truth, that we are all children of the one common Father; that we have never drifted beyond His care and love; that He ever communicates to His children everywhere what He requires of them; that strict obedience in this life to His requirements fits man for the Kingdom. This does away with all necessity for a "second probation." It were folly to trust our future happiness to so uncertain a thing when we all have the privilege of securing it *now*.

All these false ideas which have been thrust into religion would in time be eradicated. When the light of Science and Reason are allowed more and more to penetrate this false theological cloak which has been thrown around true Religion, keeping it in darkness, and when we are willing to open our minds to the blaze of Divine Light, then indeed will Religious teaching be reasonable, scientific and in harmony with true Revelation.

Coldstream, 12 mo. 1, '86.

S. P. Z.

CORRUPT LITERATURE.

There is no one subject which has claimed my full attention of late more individually than this, namely, "Corrupt Literature." The book markets are full to overflowing with this indigestible matter, which ruins the memory and weakens the morals. Although some of our standard authors are published in cheap paper editions, yet I always feel a thrill of horror when I see a young person with such an unsubstantial book in hand. Not long ago while teaching in one of our boarding schools, I labored earnestly in behalf of *good* literature, I do not think that parents are sufficiently active in this matter; they should prescribe a regular course of reading and have their children follow it, thereby laying a thorough foundation. It is just as essential that the fathers and mothers should be cautious about their children's mental organs of digestion as their physical; indeed, I think it is more so. I am very thankful that my mother did not allow me to "cram my brain with distressful bread."