

the face of eternity, and as compared with the essentials of the Divine Verity and human belief, are of little or no moment if only the heart be right with God. We much need to lay to heart the words of Christ to the woman of Samaria, "The hour has come when ye shall neither in this mountain nor at Jerusalem worship the Father. * * * The true worshipper shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." And to service of this kind it matters little whether rendered in this place or another, whether after this manner or another.

All over men act as children, and as naughty children in this matter. What are called religious principles are generally our religious opinions, commonly received by tradition from the fathers. What is called conscience is not seldom our opinionativeness, our self will and obstinacy.

In proper language "principle" is a primary truth of whatever it belongs to. A religious principle is what a true man should and could die for. The want of it, the surrender of it, would undermine any system of religion, would wither, would crush the soul relying on that system that rests most on the rock of principle. How can we seriously affirm that of one thing in a hundred of so-called principles about which we dispute, and divide, and fight? Is it of eternal moment which of the evangelical creeds we have come intelligently to approve? what Church among Christian Churches we belong to? what forms we use in worship if the worship be at all according to His word, and God be in spirit and truth sought in it and adored?

I have little sympathy and less respect for the man who can run gadding about from creed to creed, from church to church, frittering around beliefs and customs which are at least sacred to some people; or for the man who can lightly, and without solid and pressing reasons, forsake the religion of his fathers. But just as little sympathy and respect should I cherish for the man who would hold to any theory, even the silly or the pernicious, merely because his father did so, or he would have it so.

Might we not, and could we not, as little children and dealing with matters

very high for us, give our best endeavors to know and to do the best we can while ever seeking light at the footstool of the true light, and yet be considerate and just to others, and be capable of thinking that they may be as near to God and as dear, and as close to the proper outward showing of it as we? And whom we think wrong, and must think wrong, can we not love these mistaken children? and pity and put them right if we can, and pray for them and win them to the better by showing them the better in our hearts and in our lives?

The tidings of the great awaking and turning to the Lord in Scotland excited deep interest everywhere, and even searchings of heart and longings for the Spirit of Grace. Just before that remarkable movement the religious mind of the country was convulsed by a struggle that had been maintained for years, to consummate on the one hand, and to prevent on the other, a brotherly, Christian union of Churches historically one and of the same faith and church polity. And the whole soul was engrossed by that struggle of that part of the community which is specially set apart to bear witness for Christ, to call men to the Saviour, and to look and hunger for love, union, brotherhood,—and not set apart to think evil of the brethren, and to peer, and hunt, and excavate for points to strive about. And God saw it, and angels looked on, and they who feared the Lord cried, and God hearkened and answered and sent times of refreshing, and love and God-seeking and brother-embracing charity took the place of the turmoil and the contention. That is but a sample, and not the worst, of mens' doings in and about religion.

We are little children, often quarrelsome and senseless children. Good men and bad will know it soon. O, think of the scenes beyond our present horizon, of the light that is to dawn, of the day that is to be, and of the great multitude before the throne. And how foolish to them, how perilous, so many of the questions that gender strifes among us, and how great to them only one thing—God's love in Christ's sacrifice for sinners. Think, and in spirit you might join them now in song "Thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation,