

HOW DO WE KNOW THE FRIEND?

ing a man's soul as nothing else can. It is the one thing that never grows old. He who is really your friend, no matter how humble he may be, is always revealing some fresh, deep, spiritual beauty, always discovering some new opportunity for fuller and richer fellowship of your soul with his. Pomp and grandeur lose their attractiveness, beauty fades and fails, flattery becomes hollow and repulsive, but friendship abides and endures so long as the soul lasts. And it gathers to itself a heritage of precious memories as the days go by. It sanctifies commonplace occasions and places, making them spiritual forces to enrich all the future days.

Every true friendship gathers about itself a literature, whether written on paper or woven into the very fibres of our being. So if religion is friendship with God, we would naturally look for a literature of that friendship, if it only lasted during our own lives; but when His friendship began with the childhood of the race, and has come down through the centuries to our own day, how much fuller and more rich ought we to expect that literature to be. Nor are we disappointed. Out of that friendship of God with man has grown the Bible, the source of