

FRIENDSHIP THE CORE OF RELIGION

his poor heart was worried and his life spoiled by trying to serve so many masters, But slowly God took the child-man and taught him, as he could bear the separate lessons, until to-day, to him who has a consistent theory of the universe and of life, the springing of leaves, the falling of waters, the flashing of lightning, all speak of God, the ever-present, all-powerful soul of the universe.

To the truly pious heart there has always been a certainty of the reality and the presence of God, but even wise and good men have been sorely troubled to know what to do with science and with life, because of partial views of the meaning of religion. They have looked on it as a means of getting rid of sin, of finding peace of conscience, of being insured against future punishment, of being assured of the bliss and the joy of heaven, and have thought of God as the means by which this was brought about, banishing Him too often from great areas of life, of conduct and of human thought. These partial views all contained some truth, and in the progress of the ages have been grouped into ever wider conceptions, until to-day man stands ready for a