

In these days of questioning what the morrow will bring forth, days of great uncertainties and grave possibilities, it is well for the Christian to remember his heritage of promises which will prove ample for every need as it may come. "I will trust and not be afraid" and if by reason of the terrifying aspect of circumstances I do become possessed of fears, "What time I am afraid I will trust in Him." The following article is a good one to read that our faith may be reassured and strengthened in the promise that our God is indeed able to fulfill all our needs "according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

"In God have I put my trust: I will not fear what man can do unto me."

In the year 1855 the Berlin Religious Tract Society published an account, here slightly condensed, of a remarkable experience in the life of Johann Daniel Loest, a Berlin tradesman who kept a store for the sale of trimmings and small wares, but who through the blessing of God became one of the best known merchants in that city.

Having become security to the amount of six hundred thalers, for a lady whose property he supposed would cover all claims, he was surprised to receive some months afterward a court order directing him to pay the entire sum the following Tuesday.

He had just accepted a bill for three hundred thalers, to be paid on the ensuing Saturday, and hoping to get out of his dilemma he hastened to a rich friend to ask a loan.

On the way he met another acquaintance who had lent him four hundred thalers on a note and who greeted him with the news that he must pay that note on the following Friday, as he required the amount to pay for goods which would arrive then.

"You shall have it," said Loest, as he hurried on. He found his friend at home, but before he could tell his errand he was addressed thus: "It is lucky you came, my friend. I was just going to send for you to request you to make provision to pay me back the five hundred thalers you owe me, for I must have it on Wednesday to pay off a mortgage on my house, which is about to become due."

"You shall have it," replied Loest, calmly, yet his heart became heavier every moment.

Suddenly it occurred to him that the widow of a friend just dead was possessed of large means, and she might be inclined to help him. But alas! disappointment thickened fast upon him.

Loest already owed this friend five hundred thalers on a note, and three hundred thalers for goods. As he entered the room, the widow handed him an order from the Court of Trustees, to pay the five hundred thalers on Thursday; and, continued the lady: "I would earnestly entreat you to pay the other three hundred thalers on Saturday, for there are accounts constantly pouring in on me, and the funeral expenses must be met;" here her voice faltered.

"It shall be attended to," said Loest. He withdrew, not having had a chance to

utter one word of the business that took him there.

He had failed at every turn.

But though the waves surged and rose, they did not overwhelm him. He had hitherto been helped of God and his faith became greater, for he felt certain that the Lord would bring him out of all his difficulties.

This was the situation. He had promised to pay six hundred thalers on Tuesday, five hundred on Wednesday, five hundred on Thursday, four hundred on Friday, three hundred Saturday morning, and three hundred on Saturday afternoon; in all, two thousand six hundred thalers. It was already the Saturday just previous, and his purse contained but four thalers. There was only one prospect left, and he went to a rich money lender, and in response to his request for relief in money difficulties, was met with this reply of irony and sarcasm from one who loved to indulge his enmity to the Christian faith: "You in money difficulties, Mr. Loest! I cannot believe it! It is altogether impossible! You are always boasting that you have such a rich and loving Master! Why don't you apply to Him now?" And the money lender could not conceal his pleasure at this opportunity of testing a Christian.

Loest turned away; hard as the taunt and remark of his opponent was, yet it recalled him to a sense of his duty, and his forgetfulness of the fact that he had not hitherto asked of God for special help in this need. With cheerful steps he hurried home, and in long and imploring prayer asked for help and forgiveness in this, his neglect of trust in One so rich and generous.

He was refreshed and comforted, and the Sunday was one of peace and sweetness. He knew and felt assured that the Lord would provide. The eventful week opened, and on Monday he arose with a cheerful thought in his heart. Ere he had time to dress he noticed with great surprise that both his sister and the assistant in the store seemed, notwithstanding the earliness of the hour, to have fully as much as they could do in serving customers and making up parcels, and he at once hastened into the shop to give them assistance. Thus it continued all day.

Never, in all his experience, could Loest remember such a ceaseless stream of customers as poured on that memorable Monday, into that out-of-the-way shop. Cooking dinner was out of the question; neither masters nor maid had time for that; coffee and bread taken by each in turn, served instead of the accustomed meal. Still the customers came and went; still three pairs of hands were in requisition to satisfy their wants.

Nor was it for new purchases alone that money came in. More than one long outstanding account, accompanied by excuses for delayed payment, and assurances that it had not been possible to settle it sooner, enlarged the contents of the till; and the honest-hearted debtor, on whom this unwonted stream of money flowed in, was tempted every minute to call out, "It is the Lord."

At length night came, when Loest and his worn-out assistants, after having poured out their hearts in thankful adora-

tion in family prayer, sat down to the first meal they had that day enjoyed in common. When it was over the brother and sister counted the money which had that day been taken. It came to six hundred and three thalers, fourteen silver groschen.

This was sufficient to pay the first debt due the next day and leave but ten shillings and eightpence over, a trifle less than they commenced the day with. Loest was lost in wonder and grateful emotion at this gracious testimony of how faithfully his Lord could minister to him in his necessities.

"What a wondrous God is ours, who in the government of this great universe does not forget his gracious promises!"

Tuesday was a repetition of Monday's splendid business, and brought in the five hundred thalers which he needed the next morning to pay off the mortgage on his friend's house, due that day.

Wednesday's sales gave him five hundred thalers, which he was obliged to have ready to pay on Thursday morning into court.

Thursday's sales brought him four hundred thalers, just the amount he had promised to pay the next day for goods delivered.

Friday's sales gave him just three hundred thalers with which to honor the widow's demand on Saturday to pay funeral and contingent expenses.

During these days of wonderful business, after each indebtedness was discharged there was not left in hand a sum exceeding three to five thalers.

On Saturday morning, after he had sent the three hundred thalers to the widow, he had left precisely two thalers and twenty silver groschen (six shillings eightpence sterling), the smallest balance he had had. What seemed most alarming, the rush to the shop seemed to be entirely over; for while during the five days past he had had scarcely time to draw his breath, he was now left in undisturbed possession of his place. Not a single customer appeared. The wants of the vicinity seemed to have come to an end, for not a child even entered to buy a penny-worth of thread or a few yards of tape. This utter cessation of trade was as unusual and out of the accustomed business as the extra rush had been.

At five o'clock on Saturday was due the debt of three hundred thalers. Three o'clock came and there was but six shillings eightpence in the till. Where was his money to come from? Loest sat still and possessed his soul in patience, for he knew the Lord would choose the best time, and he desired to be found waiting and watching for the Lord's coming. The trial was severe. It seemed hopeless; and if it should happen that the creditor came and went away unsatisfied his commercial character would be injured, his credit shaken, and his reputation severely suffer.

That last hour ran slowly on. At a quarter to four, almost the last few moments of painful suspense, a little old woman came in, and asking for Mr. Loest, said to him half in a whisper:

"I live here close by, quite alone in a cellar, and I have had a few thalers paid me, and now I want to beg of you to be so