

"THE EVERLASTING ARMS."

(Deu. 33:27).

When free from care, thoughtless of the responsibilities of life, training for a nurse, the above passage of scripture first came under my observation. One morning as I entered the ward I done duty in, I noticed one of the patients I was very fond of looked as if the end was swiftly approaching. As I went to her bedside and stooped down and greeted her as usual, she replied to my question, How are you this a. m.? "Underneath are the everlasting arms," and then asked me if I would kindly find verse in God's word for her containing those words. I said yes. I had not the faintest idea where it was, so after my morning work was done I took a small ward Bible and began at Genesis. Finally I was rewarded after a careful search, for the Bible contained no references or nothing to guide me, and as I stood by her and read the verse over again and again, a halo of glory seemed to surround her, and that first death-bed scene I ever witnessed was stamped on my memory never to be erased, for "the everlasting arms" were around and about her and she was carried to her home eternal. I was then confident that there was a reality in the religion of Jesus Christ and since I have found Him as my own personal Saviour and consecrated all to Him, this has been one of the most comforting and one of the sweetest passages in God's precious word to me. Strange as it may seem, never yet have I heard a preacher take this scripture for his text, it is so complete in itself, the meaning so rich, so deep; what a picture of our Father God, the comforting assurance of Divine support. Often as we see a babe resting in its mother's arms after the long, weary night of suffering and pain we wonder at the love that does not allow those arms to grow weary, but patiently, lovingly holds the frail little form, and in that we learn the lesson of our Heavenly Father's love and care. "The everlasting arms" are felt round and about us, yet not visible and as that unseen support and succour comes to you and I in hours of weakness or times like these of anxious waiting, how tender we feel God is to us for He alone knoweth our feebleness, and remembers we are but dust. Often as we sink beneath the heavy weight of sorrow and as, like Job of old, testings and trials come on every side and we sink down as it were to lowest depths, but "underneath are the everlasting arms." Brother, sister, too often we depend to much on the arm of flesh. We look too much to human comfort and resources. Look at your children, happy, filled with laughter and glee, but let some accident befall them, how quickly they fly to mother. We are the same; often God has to lay His hand heavily on you and I to teach us a lesson He could not teach us otherwise. It is then where human aid can not enter we learn to lean hard on God, and as everything is swept away we come to "The everlasting arms," and they remain steadfast unmovable. "Praise His Holy name." No matter how cultured, how reserved we are, when deep sorrow comes and we pass through we once more become as little children. As we stand by the little

form of the loved one we forget then about all around us only the fact of the heavy grief we feel. So the child of God as trouble presses heavy, must have somewhere to lean, some one to uphold you and tide you over. Then brother, sister, we cry as never before:

"Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.
Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me."

God's great purpose in all the heavy trials and testings of life is to bring us down to "The Everlasting arms." What an inspiration it gives us as we feel them upholding us. We gain new strength and the peace within our hearts deepens; and the assurance of safety wells up we feel we are not only upheld but carried along. "What have I to fear? What have I to dread? Leaning on the everlasting arms." Jesus, our blessed Redeemer, descended to the lowest depths to bring you and I up from the horrible pit and the miry clay in His loving arms. Faith is just the peaceful resting in those arms. We can do nothing ourselves. By our strength the lift must come from God and what to me is of the uttermost importance is that those arms never fail us. Oh, yes, I know we may in a moment of awful conflict or self sufficiency forsake those arms and trust the arm of flesh, but what a picture of despair and misery a child of God is when he has forsaken the fold and wanders helpless and forlorn in the desert. God's word contains so many precious promises to His obedient children and words of tenderest love and encouragement, but mark you, recorded there as well there is terrible warnings against presumption, self-confidence and unbelief. You dare not place any limit on the power of God. "For all power belongeth unto God" and He who has power to pardon you from sins can also cleanse you from the last and least remains of sin and "present you faultless before the throne." If you walk in the paths of obedience and trust, you will be kept from sin.

"Grace there is my debt to pay,
Blood to wash my every sin away.
Power to keep me sinless day by day.
For me, for me."

Faith can sing triumphantly in times of temptation. Such times will come; they are in the testing or refining process. As the heavy winds now pass through the trees, the lifeless dead trees fall everywhere, but those that have life stand the storm. Oh, yes, they sway, they may even bend, and often a limb here and there is broken off, but the roots take a firmer hold in the soil. You see the storm tends to strengthen the tree and it gets a firmer hold on the foundation—mother earth. Just so with the soul who rests alone on Jesus with the Holy Ghost. "The Comforter" abiding within Job stood the test, Daniel stood the test, Nehemiah stood the test. "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation." David did not stand the test; he fell, but he was of all men most miserable, and when he once more felt the "everlasting arms" about him he never forsook them again. It always seems to me there was a feeling of gratitude and love in David's heart toward God Job and

Daniel never experienced when he found God was so compassionate and gentle with him and once more restored to him. "The joy of his salvation." Praise God for His precious promises that are yea and amen in Christ Jesus for those who need consolation and strength in hours of weakness and trouble and for the assurance sweet, "He'll take us through whatever betide." As our pastor said one Sabbath, "If we walk with God and obey Him, when we step down to the red sea of trouble or affliction the waters divide and we walk over dry shod and as we stand on the bank the waters roll on and form a wall of protection behind us from the enemy, and we stand "alone with God" and "underneath are the everlasting arms" and we can sing with the triumphant voice of the victor:

"The blood has never lost its power,
No never, no never.
Jesus' blood avails for sin forever
And will never lose its power."

J. B.

A PRAYER.

(Dr. C. E. Mason.)

O Lord, forgive my many sins,
And make me what thou knowest best;
Remove them from my soul within,
As far as east is from the west.

I want a principle within,
Of holy love and godly fear;
A sensibility of sin,
A pain to feel when it is near.

O draw me closer to Thee, Lord,
And let me Thy salvation see;
O help me count earth's joys but naught,
And let Thy Spirit live in me.

And when the evil ones combine
Their force to draw my heart from Thee,
Then may I clearer, brighter shine,
In Thee my Lord, who died for me.

And when life's troubles round me roll,
And its deep sorrows make me weep,
O Lord, then, let me hide my soul,
Firm in Thy boundless love so deep.

When Satan's host against me stand,
To draw my heart from things above,
Then cover me with Thy right hand,
And hide me in the depths of love.

Let no hobgoblins, nor foul friend
Allure my soul out of the way;
Sufficient grace to me extend,
And make me conqueror every day.

O hold me up in waters deep,
And fix my eyes on things above;
O give as Thou dost see I need,
And fill my heart with perfect love.

And when temptations press me sore,
Do Thou, O Lord, my strength increase;
And from Thy deep, exhaustless store,
O fill my soul with perfect peace.

O may I have abundant grace,
So that I may abide in Thee;
And to Thy glory and Thy praise,
May Thy dear words abide in me.

O Lord, remove my inbred sin,
It brings forth sorrow and distress;
And set Thy kingdom up within,
In joy and endless righteousness.

Then may I to perfection go,
And leave the former things behind;
And reaching forward, more to know
Of things ahead, more deep defined.

"Law cannot produce ideal conditions."