

this spirit makes us thank God for fellowship with all who live today and are fighting the good fight of faith. He that doeth the will of my father that is in heaven the same is my brother and sister. Such people get blessed; they are not narrow partisans or compromising worldlings, nor are they wild fanatics; they are the sanctified children of God who have a right to shout and sing.

There are humble homes into which I go and hold sweet fellowship with the lowly inmates. We quote the scripture and sing and pray and come away saying, "praise the Lord!" That is better than being introduced to the King and Queen. If I were told that I had to meet them I should be embarrassed because of my scanty wardrobe and my ignorance of royal etiquette. We may admire regal splendor without having much fellowship with it; it is so far above us. But we have learned an etiquette that makes us feel at home with prophets, priests and Kings of the spiritual realm, and clothed with the garments of salvation our attire is always appropriate.

Again, this blessing of the Lord makes us rich in holy optimism. We believe that God is just as near this old world, and as much interested in it as He ever was. "God so loved the world that He gave." I don't believe that God is sorry for the investment that He made when he gave His son to redeem this world, nor is Christ sorry for all His agony and suffering. "He shall see the travail of His soul and be satisfied."

Our God is not fighting a losing battle. Our God is marching on to the consummation of His eternal purposes. He may be hindered by man's unfaithfulness. "But He shall never be discouraged till he has established judgment in the earth." And so above all the fulminations of Hitler and the boastings of Mussolini and the machinations of Stalin, and the political expediency of so-called Christian leaders, with all the sin and iniquity found in high places and low in Christian lands, these notes of encouragement sound in our soul. Surely, "I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

Truly these are perilous times. All times have been perilous. The Psalmist had a faith that shouted: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; therefor will we not fear though the earth be removed and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea." What soul-confidence belongs to him out of whose heart all carnal fear and unbelief have been cast! For the "foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

Hallelujah! The best is yet to come! Hope thou in God for I shall yet praise Him who is the health of my countenance and my God."

Yes, this is a blessing that lifts the soul above the sorrow of losses and crosses that come in its way. The carnal mind may see these things stamped as disaster and failure; the child of God sees them as blessings in disguise. He has learned to take a view beyond the horizon of the present; he has learned to interpret things not separately but as a whole—one thing in relation to other things that God brings to pass. Abraham believed God was able to raise Isaac from the dead. And have we not seen God, out of the ashes of blighted hopes and plans and wishes bring

something far better than that which seemed to have perished!

We have seen those whose bodies have been mutilated by accident or twisted by disease, who not only endured their afflictions but gloried in them. It was only the means of enabling them to enlarge their spiritual capital. Mr. Wesley tells us that he met a poor woman whose face was horribly mutilated by a terrible disease. Her speech was inarticulate but her mouth was full of praise to God. He declared that he never had seen a greater triumph of grace above physical loss. These "slight afflictions," said Paul, "work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." We generally think of a weight as something to press us down and to crush us; but a weight of glory lifts us up. One was asked if he ever went down under the power? "No," he shouted, "but I have come up under the power!"

Briefly, in conclusion is the word, "and addeth no sorrow with it." With temporal blessings and profits often come sorrow. An old lady in Canada whose husband had become a millionaire, and who lived in a mansion, declared her happiest days were when her husband was a laboring man, and they lived in a humble home. The great prosperity had brought awful shadows over that home, enough to crush the heart of a wife. When we hear of somebody being left a rich legacy the question may be asked us: "How would you like such good fortune?" We are glad for some studies we have taken in the same school that Paul attended when he "learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content," and Godliness with contentment is great gain. We have the firm conviction that we can make far greater progress towards heaven where we have to labor for a living than we would with the heavy luggage of great material prosperity. When King George III., so highly gratified by an able dissertation by John Fletcher on a great national problem, asked that saintly man what favor could be done him, was met with the reply, "Your Majesty, I seek no material gain. I only pray for a larger measure of grace that may enable me to better glorify my God."

We have seen young men apparently with no superior gifts mount to the places of ecclesiastical preferment. If that is for what they have striven truly, they have their reward. God knows whether we look upon such with the slightest tinge of envy in our soul. My heart cries, Lord make me a channel of blessing! We are not meant to be reservoirs but we may be channels. We must know through death to the carnal and worldly, the entrance into the abundant life, even the life hid with Christ in God.

What though we have been marred in the hands of the potter by our lack of passivity to His will, yet if we are still in His hands and on the wheel to be made into a vessel of lesser honor, even in this may we rejoice that we are not a castaway, but feel encouraged to believe that He who has begun a good work in us shall perform unto That Day—That Day when there may be a reversal of estimates; for in That Day what was called a success down here may be a failure up there. One thing is sure, we can't be a failure with the blessing of God upon our soul; that blessing that maketh rich but addeth no sorrow with it.

## HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES

In an effort to bring the "slum" problem to the members of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine of New York City, "a squalid three-room flat, typical of the housing accommodations which New York offers to 500,000 of its population, was transported intact and set up in the nave of the Cathedral. Just one week before, the three rooms had been occupied by nine people, including four adults. It contained a living room, a bedroom, a kitchen—no bath, but a toilet shared by four families. The living room contained a couch and a table, three chairs, a wornout piece of matting, a trunk. The bedroom contained one single bed with no sheets, a dresser, a chair, no window. The kitchen contained a wood stove, a rusted sink, an ice box, a baby's high chair. When and where the nine inhabitants ate and slept has not been disclosed."—Sel.

## SPURGEON'S GREATEST COMPLIMENT

C. H. Spurgeon reckoned as the highest compliment ever paid him the words of an open enemy who said: "Here is a man who has not moved an inch forward in all his ministry, and at the close of the nineteenth century is teaching the theology of the first century, and is proclaiming the doctrine of Nazareth and Jerusalem current eighteen hundred years ago."—Selected.

## MILLIONS FOR "SMOKE AND ASHES"

The American Tobacco Company, in a report recently made public, shows a net income for 1937 of more than twenty-six million dollars. Remarking on this report, someone observes, "Tobacco money does not represent anything saved, anything built, anything of material value added to life or its equipment," and twenty-six million dollars "seems a stiff price to pay for smoke and ashes, and for jangled nerves, hearts, digestive apparatus, sore throat and bronchial inflammation."—New Orleans Christian Advocate.

## EVOLUTIONISTS BAFFLED

According to Our Hope, at the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science the latest admission of the scientists' ignorance regarding the cause and operation of evolution came from Sir Edward Poulton. In commenting on his address the New York Times, in an editorial, makes this acute observation: "We have only been romancing in what we thought was a scientific fashion, and, by giving resounding names to mysterious activities, deceiving ourselves into believing that we understood them."—Selected.

## EVANGELISM IN MEXICO

A writer in the Missionary Review of the World states that while mission schools in Mexico, abolished three years ago, are still closed, Christian forces formerly given to education are now working along definitely evangelistic lines, and would not return to the old order if they could. Officials, he adds, all over the land recognize the difference between evangelical work and the old Roman Catholic order, and their friendly attitude towards Protestants becomes ever more pronounced.—Pentecostal Evangel.