

verse of which God is the ruler. God was waiting at the sleeping place, when all around was very dark, that He might reveal himself to His sinning and fearful servant. The darkness has become bright with terrible light, and instead of those almost tear-blinded eyes, seeing but the darkness of a few feet around, the vision rises above every former thought, every narrower conception, higher and higher, until at last clouds and darkness are gone, narrowness, closeness, fearfulness, gone, and the deceiving, supplanting Jacob has reached heaven and God.

This vision brought Jacob into a larger world, and it saved him. We are often awakened by comparisons. When the man took time to look from himself and his poor, contracted, selfish life, into a broader world, he was ashamed of himself.

There are those of us who see too much to see at all, and hear too much to hear at all.

What we need is to be brought into a dark and lonely place where there are no sights and sounds from without. It is then that the real vision comes, and the real voice of God is heard, and we are permitted to hold familiar intercourse with the Highest.

It is a strange feeling one has in climbing a mountain. The things below are gradually becoming smaller, and more indistinct. The town in the valley is becoming a cluster of little houses. The people are as pygmies, the lakes like little pools, the rivers but silver strings, and the climber begins to feel petty and insignificant as he measures himself unconsciously with the mighty mountain. But he is gaining at every step an idea of the enlargement of space, the majesty of the created world, and the greatness of the Creator. When Jacob's view was led upward through infinite space he became a new man.

We often die in our intellectual smallness, we pine away in our restricted thought, we eat in gloom at our own souls. We need to break away from the



narrowness of thought which comes from dealing with the visible world. Climb the hill. Look upward. There is no limit to your soul, for upon that ladder you reach the highest Heaven.

That vision of Jacob was but a prophecy of the vision which has been seen by every Christian. Jesus Christ is the ladder which reaches from earth to Heaven. Our attitude towards that Saviour settles our position in His Kingdom. We look at Christ and say, "Ah, we believe He is the Saviour, the solution of the many problems of life," and yet turn away and not trust Him. That ladder will bear all who will test it. If we wait until others have tried its strength we will still be lying on the cold, dark, cheerless earth as Jacob was, with his face to the ground. Men do not often disbelieve, but they turn their faces earthward. They perish in life's struggle because they have no room, see no vision of the greater world. It is possible for a man to live so long in his old way that his power of greater vision is taken from him. It is possible to be so occupied with your own business that you sink down into narrowness of thought, pettiness of existence, utter littleness of soul. It is possible to stand and gaze at Him who is the Way from earth to Heaven, and yet say, "I am afraid to venture,

and then turn the eyes downward to the dark, hopeless world. Lift up your soul to the enlarging vision which is only limited by Heaven and God, then many a difficulty will vanish, many a fretfulness will be no more, many a blighting temper and cursing habit will take their flight.

"Heaven is not reached at a single bound
But we build the ladder by which we rise
From the lonely earth to the vaulted skies,
And we mount to the summit round by
round.

I count this thing to be grandly true,
That a noble deed is a step toward God,
Lifting the soul from the common sod
To a purer air and a broader view."

"LIFE ABUNDANT."

We take scanty views of the life-giving powers of Christ. We act and think as though He doled out life in drops, instead of flooding the soul with it in a stream. His word is, "Whosoever is athirst, let him come and take of the water of life freely." Many of us take of the water of life, but we do not do so "freely." We bring a little vessel, and do not come with faith to have even that filled. We are straitened not in Christ but in ourselves. When the Apostles speak of the grace of Jesus, and of the life that comes by that grace, *abundance* is the key-note of it all. "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign, through righteousness, unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. v. 20, 21).

Alas! how few there are who can say that "their cup runneth over!" Even small as it is, they do not let Christ fill it. It is not held up to Christ until He pours into it all that it can contain. Perhaps during the coming year we shall be taught by the Holy Spirit to understand Him better. When He says to us, "I am come that you may have life abundantly," we shall say, "Fill me out of Thy fulness, O Jesus; make my heart a larger vessel to hold more of Thee; let the life that comes from Thee be stronger and stronger in me. I want abundant life."