

ships of Spain were driven up through the stormy waters and dashed in pieces against the northern coast. Man failed, but God triumphed.

Now, as we see in these historic pictures the way in which God helps His human creatures, so remember that each one of you has a task to accomplish, and I make bold to say that it requires as great bravery to face intelligently the dealing with a spirit that has in it infinite capacity for evil and infinite capacity for good, as it did to face the unnumbered hosts who swept down on the plain in front of Omdurman on the British army. There comes to me a text that is found enshrined in one of the ancient books—a book that is full of lamentation and mourning, and yet there is here and there plying among its clouds and shadows gleams of light that flash from the throne of God. “It is good that a man should hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.” If we read intelligently that phrase we are to gather that it means not simply salvation, it means deliverance that comes to us each one in his place, as the promise that in our task God stands beside us and renders us aid. What does the text mean when it says man should hope for God’s salvation? It is only those who desire to do a thing who ever shall accomplish it. No man does a task well unless his heart is set upon its successful fulfilment, and the teacher who sits down before his class of scholars and is not constrained by a great desire to do this one thing which I have assumed is your purpose, to bring that soul nearer to God himself, is an unworthy teacher, and is an unfaithful disciple. I know there are lesser aims that force themselves upon you, but these aims should all be subordinate to the higher aim of bringing a child to God. Nor must you be content only with the desire. There must be expectation also, confidence that this is a work approved by God, a persuasion that this is a work He shall do. We must expect and believe, for this is the victory that overcometh the world, even your faith. But there is also the last clause in our text, and it tells us that we should quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. If you were to ask me what is the greatest enemy that the Christian world has to contend with in this age, or in any age, methinks I would say it is the faithlessness of those who call themselves Christ’s and it is this very faithlessness that opens the way for every new fad that springs up and wins to its side the wavering multitudes. He that believeth shall not make haste. And in every great movement that has thrilled the world’s heart there has been always this unquenchable faith, an entire conviction, that God is with us. I know right well some of the difficulties that come to you; I know right well it is one thing to be thrilled as you sit here touching one another, and then to go back to the country school, it may be, with its lack of equipment, and your heart has been made sick as you have learned of all the equipment that seems to be necessary to make the Sabbath School teacher’s work a success. If you cannot remember any other word I have spoken, take this with you, the conviction