

ing of men firmly resolved as ever to lose all and to suffer all, rather than surrender the birth-right of those prerogatives which we inherit from our fathers, or compromise the sacred liberty wherewith Christ has made us free—of men whose paramount question is what is duty, that best stepping-stone to the solution of the other question what is wisdom. For it is when in this spirit of uprightness, this blessed frame of simplicity and godly sincerity, that light is made to arise, and Wisdom is justified of her children.

"This is not the place for attempting any specific delineation of the path which wisdom prescribes in our present eventful circumstances; nor will I utter one word that might indicate my opinion or even my leanings on the question, of what specifically and practically the church at present ought to do. But surely this is the place for urging both on myself and others, the moral preparation which all experience demonstrates to have an enlightening effect upon the understanding, and all Scripture affirms to be of sovereign efficacy in bringing down the Spirit of wisdom from above. This has been the object of your prayers; and it is the identical object, however feeble in execution, of our preaching. The great lesson of our text is, that if we purpose aright, we shall be made to see aright; and that the integrity of our wills shall be followed up by light in the understandings. God will not abandon to darkness those who cast their care and their confidence upon Himself; and who can say with the apostle—He is my helper, and I will not fear what man can do unto me. The man who can lift this honest and unflinching prayer—Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting—the man who can say this fearlessly, has nothing else to fear. God will establish the just—for it is said the righteous God trieth the heart and reins. Commit them thy works to the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. It is He who by the light of his Holy Spirit makes good the connection between singleness of purpose and wisdom of conduct; and thus I understand the text, and He maketh wise the simple, and giveth understanding to the simple. Ye men of God, who make the Bible the supreme directory of your hearts and consciences, you will not be long left in uncertainty. He will make your way clear and open before you.—If before Him we come with the docility of little children, He will cause us in understanding to be men. He that is spiritual judgeth all things; and though, because himself judged of no man, he may be the object of derision and contempt to a world that does not comprehend him—yet if thou commit thy way unto the Lord and trust also to Him, He shall bring it to pass and

He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noon-day. Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear. The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?—Though a host should encamp against me my heart shall not fear. Though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. For in the time of trouble he will hide me in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me. He shall set me upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me. Therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea I will sing praises to the Lord.

THE CHURCH AND "THE TIMES."

"What the Church wants," says the *Times*, "is discipline. To obtain this, she must have not only competent Judges and trustworthy and accessible Courts, but also an efficient executive Government. She must be relieved from the protection and countenance which secular influences, acting through the civil powers, have thrown round whatever is vicious, and worldly, and indolent, and disobedient, and corrupt, within her pale. The state has taken her discipline from her." "It is grievous," continues the writer, "it is grievous, that, when clergymen of this stamp are making Dissenters by shoals, and failing to accomplish any one of the purposes for which a minister is set over a parish, that a system of law which tenderly regards the parson's vested right in his tithe, but neglects the vested right of perhaps ten thousand souls in the spiritual services for which that tithe was given, should throw an effectual shield round all this inefficiency and vice."

REFLECTIONS ON THE NEWS FROM CHINA.

The important and heart-cheering tidings from China, which first reached this country from a French newspaper, have been more than confirmed by the official despatches since received. And at the same time, the equally gratifying intelligence has reached us, that the British standard has been once more planted on the walls of Cabul, that the English captives have been rescued, and that the war in Afghanistan is at an end.

Peace with China, lasting peace and friendship between the two nations, based upon terms of perfect equality and reciprocal commercial advantage, is, in every point of view, a blessing the full value of which it is impossible to estimate, since it will extend its influence to the social interests of half the human race. It will give peace to Asia, stability to our Indian Empire, relief from the tremendous pressure upon our fiscal resources, a stimulus to commerce, and throw open to