

spare time of a winter. The plan would not need to stop at one either, probably it is worthy to be followed out in succeeding winters; as it does seem to be the case, that whenever a person commences to study literature, it becomes a habit with him. "TAPS."
Wentworth Co., Ont.

Two Notable Pictures.

Our "Home Magazine" readers will appreciate the reproductions in this issue of two representative paintings, by Prof. F. M. Bell-Smith, of Toronto—"The Sun's Last Kiss," and "London, the New and the Old." They illustrate in a graphic way the wide divergence in which the work of the artist may find expression. Prof. Bell-Smith has made many imposing mountain studies in the Canadian Rockies, and on one of these tours he sketched a glimpse of the blue Pacific off British Columbia, toward the close of a clear, breezy afternoon, when the sunlight shot across the crests of breakers, beating over the brown rocks. The painting brings the fresh ocean air near, and was deservedly admired among those selected for exhibit at the 1911 Canadian National Exhibition. Turning from the Western marine, it is a far call to one of the haunts of Old London, with its illimitable charms for the painter, of alternating radiance and "gray confusion." This epitome of the world (London), long ago enamoured Bell-Smith, and assuredly much of his most effective work has found its inspiration there. The view in the painting, some of "The Farmer's Advocate" readers familiar with London, will recognize as on Holborn, near Gray's Inn Road, and shows the old "Staple Inn" (Inns of Court—not taverns), and the Prudential Life Building. The peculiar strength of the picture is its revealing of the moving, jostling life of the street, and the very atmosphere of London. Prof. Bell-Smith's work has won recognition in the Old Land, and he holds a certificate bearing the autograph of the present King, of full, active membership, in the

Royal British Colonial Society of Artists, having its headquarters in Old London, with the right to use the letters R. B. C. Among its members are many such distinguished British painters as Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Sir Edward Paynter, P. R. A., Stanhope Forbes, R. A., Sir E. A. Waterlow, P. R. A., R. A., Solomon J. Salomon, R. A., Frank Brangwyn, A. R. A., James Paterson, A. R. S. A., R. S. W., J. Farquarson, A. R. A., R. Thorne-Waite, R. W. S., and many others prominent in art circles. The honorary members of the Society include the King, Queen Mary, Queen Alexandra, the Princess Louise, and the Duke of Connaught.

Hope's Quiet Hour.

The Lord Stood With Me

At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me . . . notwithstanding the Lord stood with me and strengthened me.—2 Tim. iv.: 16, 17.

"It is the lonely load
That crushes out the light and life of
heaven;
But borne with Him, the soul restored,
forgiven,
Sings out through all the days
Her joy and God's high praise."

St. Paul eagerly reached out to his fellows, pouring out all his powers of body, mind and spirit, with ungrudging generosity, for their benefit. Love wins love, and he was encouraged and strengthened by the warm affection of many dear friends. But the great Apostle and leader roused the opposition of men in power, and was persecuted and imprisoned. When it became dangerous to show any friendship for him, when he had to face the anger of Nero, he found that human friendship was not a safe thing to lean on. Writing to Timothy, he says: "This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be

turned away from me," and again, "No man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge." Like his Master, he was caring for the friends who—when most needed—had forsaken him and fled. Like his Master, he could calmly face the thought that earthly friends should fail him and leave him alone, because he was quite sure that he was not alone. Though all men might forsake him, yet the Lord stood with him and strengthened him. It was not the first time that the Presence of his Lord had been strength in time of danger. Years before this, when his own countrymen were ready to tear him in pieces, and more than forty of them had taken an oath that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed him, the Lord stood by him, and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul." On another occasion, when the Jews bitterly opposed his assertion that Jesus was their long-expected Messiah, the Lord said to him in a night vision: "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee."

What does it matter that this happened nearly two thousand years ago? Human nature has not changed very much in all these years, and certainly God has not changed. The Lord who stood beside the tempest-tossed apostle is the same Lord who stands beside us to-day—"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever." He is the Vine and we are the branches. Severed from Him we can do nothing, by His power and Life—working through us—we can do anything He chooses.

You have heard this so often that it may have become almost meaningless to you. If that is so, then it is time you roused yourself to grasp the reality of the wonderful truth. To St. Paul it meant everything. He could face each day joyously, exultingly, in spite of the desertion of those who had professed to be his friends, because the Lord stood beside him.

Do you want to be a victor in this glorious battle of life? Then lean back

on the Friend who will never fail you—"We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

A woman was once in danger of being crushed under the burden of a sudden sorrow. Gladness and courage seemed to be impossible to her, and she felt that she had a right to feel unhappy and discouraged, that no one could expect her to be cheerful under the circumstances. But one old friend did expect her to be a conqueror, and sent her this message of quiet confidence: "Tell her," he said, "that I know she will exhibit the victory of faith." How did he know? It was because he knew that Christ had for many years been her closest Friend and Companion, and he knew by his own experience that it is impossible to sink under troubles when holding fast to the hand of the ever-present God.

We are called to follow One who always goes forth "conquering and to conquer"—what right have we to submit to defeat? Our Leader has proved—proved it in Gethsemane and on Calvary—that the most utter failure of earthly hopes may be the most glorious of real victories. It is not when life is easiest that we should lift up our heads most exultantly, but when we have to fight—and be victors—every inch of the way, following Christ even when He calls us to the cross. Do we want Him to offer us a life of luxury and ease, a life of selfish enjoyment, and of appropriation of everything we can secure for ourselves? Would that be a successful life? If you gave a child a box of candy, and he eagerly ate it all without offering any to his brothers and sisters, would you think him a person to be admired and copied? And, if the child should grow up with that same tendency of grasping all the good things within his reach, would you like to change places with him? If not, then it is possible to look up into the Father's face and thank Him for not giving you enough of this world's treasures to injure your soul's health. As a child grows unhealthy and miserable, if he is



"London—The Old and the New."

From a painting by Prof. F. M. Bell-Smith.