

lose the blessed relief of prayer. He said, "If I had no anxieties, I should lose a powerful incentive to prayer, but when the cares of life impel to devotion, the best means of consolation, a religious mind cannot do without them. Thus trouble impels me to prayer, and prayer drives away the trouble." And so we learn that even in the midst of earth's severest trials, we are not to be in disconsolate subjection to grief; but by the grace and purpose of God it is our privilege to make the unwelcome trial subservient to our progress in the divine life here below, and to our eternal blessedness hereafter. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

It has not been our custom to make extended allusion from the pulpit to those who have departed this life and gone over to the silent majority of the dead. Such a habit is neither expedient nor necessary. But in the process of events an occasion has arisen—to our great sorrow—when a few personal words seem peculiarly in place; and these words are spoken, not to compliment a memory, but because the memory is such as to afford lessons of profit and admonition. We all feel that a congregational bereavement has been sustained. In the death of our dear brother we have lost one who was prominent in the Eldership, who was Chairman of our Managing Board, who was Treasurer for the congregation, and better still, who was always to the front in the spiritual work of the church. No matter what the weather was like on the Sabbath day, he was sure to be in his seat as a sincere and reverent worshipper. No matter how hard it rained or how bitterly it blew on Wednesday night, he was invariably at the prayer-meeting, and was ever ready to contribute words of edification whenever opportunity presented itself. No man gave a more cordial greeting to the stranger at church; no man's greeting was more tenderly appreciated. We miss him. We do not repine, we do not complain, we do not cherish a secret disposition of rebellion because he has been taken from us. We say, as I trust we may be able to say in all similar cases that may occur in the future, as I trust we may be able to say in our own case, "Thy will, O Lord, be done"; for if God's will be not done, it simply means that the wrong thing is done. Whatever He does is right. Still we are human, with all the affections and sympathies and sensibilities of men and women, and we are sensitive to our loss.

Altogether apart, however, from our dutiful submission to the mind of God, we recognize that our sorrow in this bereavement should not be unmingled with joy and thankfulness. Some one has said that the "Christian