

still exercising faith in Him, though nothing seem to be near but difficulties and enemies.

This is not easy. No indeed. Our enemy is strong, and though our Friend is mightier, yet our faith is often weak. But we are not alone, even with regard to human companions. We have fellow-sufferers, though unknown by us. There are those whom the enemy is attacking as he is attacking us. There is a great brotherhood in Christ all over the Christian world, and the same afflictions are being accomplished in them as in us.

Take the case of a young man or woman wishing to serve God, yet placed by circumstances among ungodly companions and surrounded by temptations. It is not an uncommon case. Perhaps such a person may hear or read these words. You have none like-minded with yourself, you seem to stand alone. Yet you are not alone. God is near. And, besides, in that great Christian brotherhood there are numbers who are circumstanced as you are.

Not to speak of other kinds of temptations and trials, unlike your own, and yet as hard to bear, there are in the world numbers of young persons like yourself exposed to the very same temptations as you are exposed to. They, too, are living among the

careless and ungodly; they, too, have to face opposition, dislike, and ridicule; and they have fear and apprehensions, feelings of loneliness and depression, such as you suffer from.

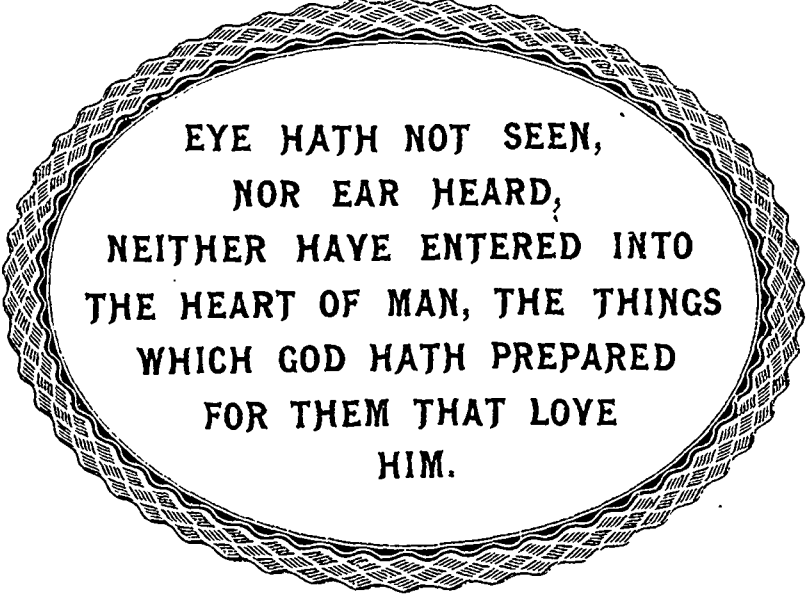
But it may happen, perhaps, that there is not one such person among your acquaintance. Yet there are such, living in the same world as you, fighting the same battle, suffering the same temptations, upheld by the same strength. Many such have already finished their course and gone to their rest. Many others are still resisting, steadfast in the faith. They are your brethren, though you know them not, your fellow-travellers in the journey of life, your companions in tribulation. You may be with them in spirit. The thought of them may give you a feeling of companionship. You are not alone. The same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

And over all is the same gracious Eye. If Chris-

tians form one brotherhood it is because they are children of one Father. God is their reconciled Father in Christ Jesus, and they are His children by adoption and grace. They see not one another, but He sees them all. They are not acquainted with each other's temptations and trials; often each one toils on alone, but He knows all. There is not one tried and tempted disciple whom He does not see, and know, and care for. Their friend is mightier than their foe. Every moment His eye is upon them for good. Even in the sharpest trial and in the most severe temptation, He is near.

The warfare will not be for ever. Even here there will be seasons of rest. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." And at length there will be perfect and eternal rest and glory. "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

Let none despond, then, under temptation. Let none yield to the assaults of the evil one. It would be misery and ruin to yield; but in resisting there is strength, comfort, victory, and peace. Temptation yielded to is sin; temptation resisted and overcome is victory. It is God's command that



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we should resist; it is God's promise that we shall overcome. He will make us more than conquerors through Him that loved us. No cross, no crown; no battle, no victory.

"We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." But look on beyond the tribulation, and see what will follow. "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them into living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."