

beamed on me from His own crucified form and benign words, dying as he was, in agonies untold, under the load of our sins, yet breathing out a welcome to Paradise to the penitent malefactor dying at His side, and a prayer for forgiveness to those who were crucifying Him and mocking Him in His dying moments—this love of Jesus and His blood shed for me for the remission of my sins, oh! how perfectly it blotted out the dark record of an unloving life in the past, and how it filled me with gladness in Jesus! How it melted my heart! How it changed my soul! What responsive love it called forth to our God who had so loved the world! What sweet rest of heart it afforded in Jesus from the dread of the wrath to come! And then, too, in the hallowed light of the love of God shed abroad in my own heart, and in the transformation it produced, I saw how all other Christians were also transformed, and O how lovely did the Christian character appear to me! How my heart went out in love to them all! But the Bible—the change in the Bible was still greater to my view. Its precepts and promises which before had been as bitter and biting as a broken law with its overhanging wrath, were now as sweet as heaven. The earth and the heavens, too, like Christians and the Bible, were transfigured before me, and appeared in the shining garments and beaming smiles of “love divine, all loves excelling.” Every leaf and flower, and all the carpet of green and tapestry of foliage, and every living thing on the earth, and in the sea and air, seemed to be sending up sweet incense of praise to God for man; whilst the heavens, in dews and showers and light, seemed to be dropping down grace and peace from God to man.

Thus the Lord taught me the great, sweet lesson of the trust of the heart in Jesus for forgiveness, and for the time it met every want of my soul. Yet, in process of time, unrest came again—a new want arose. Forgiveness did not satisfy me. I wanted the dominion of sin destroyed.

PURIFICATION,

Not less than pardon, I saw to be required both by the Word of God and the demands of my own conscience; and under the power of the law of God,

assented to and applauded by my own mind as holy and just and good, I became thoroughly awakened to my own wretched bondage to sin; and more bitterly than in the day of conviction ten years before I now cried out for deliverance. The wrath of God against sin, as declared in the first chapter of Romans, had been heavy upon me ten years before; but now the bondage of sin, as illustrated in the seventh chapter of Romans, was heavier still, and I experienced the full bitterness of soul which rings out the cry, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” But when the Lord led me into rest of heart in Jesus for sanctification, how sweet it was! What an hour was that, and what a place! If, ten years before, the open vision of Christ on the cross had made the little school-house, where it was shown me, the gate to heaven, this place where I now saw Jesus in His visible presence with me face to face, though only a widow’s cottage on earth, was within the walls of heaven. Oh! what a revelation was that to me when, in the very name of “Jesus, so called because *He* should save his people *from their sins*”—His office as my Emancipator from sin was embodied! O how my soul was gladdened with assurance that the work would be done, that I should be purified unto God, and made zealous of good works, and should be kept by the power of God and presented faultless before the throne in the great day, when I saw that it was the work and the delight of the Saviour to do this for us!

Henceforth in this matter my soul was at rest, and a sweet peace flowed in upon me and overflowed me. Then I could realise the preciousness of the words of Christ, “My peace I give unto you,” and of the prophet’s wonderful words to Christ, speaking to Him through the prophetic trumpet down through the intervening centuries, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee.” Henceforth, too, the Bible, precious as it had been to me before, received a double illumination to my apprehension. A mighty vein, before hidden, now unfolded itself, inasmuch that the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, was again a new book to me.

Here, again, for this new necessity,