

some new excitement to come in and cover the desolation which the former made.

I have stood on the banks of a full, strong and mighty river, and I have seen it flowing on in its self-dependent greatness and constancy through all seasons of the year, calm and serene, yet resistless in force, keeping ever within its banks, and yet breaking through the barrier of the everlasting mountains in its course. I have seen such a river in summer and in winter, in storm and in sunshine, always the same. The heat could not dry it up, the ice could not fetter its march, the floods could not excite its current to passionate haste, the thirsty soil could not exhaust its fullness. On it moved evermore in the majesty of strength and the beauty of beneficence, bearing great burdens without weariness, enriching millions without exhaustion, carrying life and health and abundance wherever it flowed.

And I thought, such is the river of God's pleasures by which every humble and believing soul is refreshed—of which all the thirsty are permitted to drink. God's pleasures give peace and strength. They never weary with excitement or inflame with passion. They come from sources that are exhaustless and unchanging like the infinite God. They never blast and destroy, like the wild floods and whirlpools of earthly passion. If you would be calm in the midst of agitation; if you would be strong when men's hearts are failing them for fear; if you would be cheerful and light-hearted in the midst of losses and afflictions and disappointments,—satisfy the thirst

of your soul day by day from the river of God's pleasures. Learn by decisive experiment the great art of drawing happiness from the same source with the infinite God. Open the floodgates of your heart that the river of God's pleasures may flow in.—M.

PLEASING GOD.

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; I get drawn away from the spirit of the world. Practical walking with God is connected with growth in the knowledge of God, and leads me on in likeness to Him: in every day life to have a constant reference to God's will, leads into the light practically. "If the eye be single, the whole body will be full of light." Learning God—going on with God, not merely slipping and then getting on again. It is not simply desiring to live to Christ, but our hearts should be more withdrawn from everything around, a thorough consecration of the heart, a growing up in the knowledge of God in heart and spirit, and there will be this growing up unto God, if our life be yielded to Him—servants to God—having God's will as our blessed privilege.

God's own will, flowing from His nature, should be our will. What is higher or more blessed than this? It is what Christ had; Christ thought it worth while to leave heaven, to do God's will, that we might be drawn up there, and made to bring forth fruit unto holiness down here.

There's a positive joy in pleasing God, it is perfect liberty; the gift of God is eternal life; and it is sweet