

spite of storms and venomous beasts. If he could have got there just as well without these dangers and hardships he would not have been required to face them. Why this was necessary we do not know, but that it was so we believe as firmly as we believe in the wisdom and love of God.

Even as it was told me.—The promise had three assurances: (1) That there should be no loss of life. Inasmuch as there were two hundred and seventy-six souls on board, and the vessel was leaking at every seam, the saving of anyone seemed a most unlikely thing. (2) That the ship would be lost. There was not much hope of its holding together, so they could easily believe this. Yet if the ship went to the bottom how could those in it be saved? (3) That those in the ship must be cast upon an island. There are very few islands in that part of the Mediterranean, and the sailors had no idea where they were. But God knew where Paul was. His angel had encamped round about him, and the rest were safe because Paul prayed for them. Though the clouds hid the sun and stars they could not shut out God. He is always on the hither side, and would show to these heathen Who "gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment" (Prov. 8: 29). Their gods during their awful stress and trial were dumb, but an angel of the Lord stood by the apostle

assuring him of safety. It was worth while to have a deity who was so personally concerned with his worshippers. The word of the Lord was exactly fulfilled, and without the use of any supernatural means. Each one acted for himself. Some reached the shore by swimming, and the rest floated there on planks and other things from the ship. God never works miracles to carry out his word when miracles are unnecessary. And yet the total result here was hardly less than miraculous. It hardly falls short of that, that out of so many not a single one should have been lost. We can but feel that God was helping in all that was done that His word might be redeemed. He had granted to Paul the lives of all those sailing with him. Let that fact cause us to pray with more fervency for the lives of all those who sail with us on life's voyage. (M. C. Hazard).

THOSE WHO TRUST IN GOD SHOULD BE

CONTENTED
HEERFUL
COURAGEOUS

"Be of good cheer, for I
believe God."

STRIVEN CONVICTIONS.—Amid the superficial cares and pleasures of a worldly existence a man's deeper nature may slumber; the surface-ripple of the stream of common life may fill the sense and lull the soul to sleep, but to almost every one there come occasions when the smooth current of the life of sense is interrupted, and his true self is roused to a temporary wakefulness. In the stillness of the lonely sick-bed, or in worldly reverses, in declining health, or under bitter bereavement—in such passages of man's history, the soul, eternally, God, become for the moment real things, and the most thoughtless and worldly-minded is forced to pause and think. Or, again, when the man listens to some very earnest exhibition of divine truth, or is brought into contact with one who is living a very holy, pure, unselfish life, a painful impression of his own deficiencies—a transient glimpse of a nobler, purer ideal of life, to which his own presents a miserable contrast—may visit his mind. Instead of seeking true comfort by the steady, however painful, contemplation, and then, through God's grace, by the deliberate, persevering correction of its evil self, the mind too often seeks a speedier but most unreal satisfaction, by forgetting its convictions, and seeing itself only in the false glass of the world's opinions. Thus, with many, life is but a continuous endeavor to forget and keep out of sight their true selves—a vain eluding and outstripping of a reality which is still ever with them, and to the consciousness of which they must one day awake.—*Caird*.

The Sabbath School Committee has decided to issue no special order blank this year, so as to prevent confusion, seeing that the one relating to lesson helps will be sent out by the Record Committee. Yet the convener will be glad to procure any supplies, not published by our own church, if the orders are sent to him. There is a slight profit to the Committee on all such orders. Address Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, St. John, N. B.