

"need of patience" that after they had "done the will of God" they might "inherit the promise." Circumstances, be they to outward seeming, prosperous or adverse, do render our work more or less difficult according as they more or less nearly affect our peculiar temperament, or stated employment, or disposition of mind; and the measure of success cannot be without some influence whether for good or for evil. But we must learn to contemplate our duty to God apart from all circumstances, and conditions, and secondary causes whatsoever.

It is a wise and a gracious appointment that the work of well doing should be, if a labour of love, yet a work fitted to tax our energies to the uttermost: a work to be prosecuted with unreserved devotion of mind and will, and with unflagging perseverance. In any case, let us see to it that we be not weary of well doing, nor account of the service itself as burthensome. This were indeed to draw back unto perdition. Rather let us seek to abound in the work of the Lord, if "faint" yet "pursuing." The end to be attained is worthy of our utmost exertion. Place we in the one scale the light afflictions which are but for a moment, and in the other the exceeding weight of glory which shall in due season be revealed, asking it of ourselves whether that which shall be, will not prove a more than sufficient compensation for whatever we may now be called upon to do or to suffer in the name of God, and for the cause of his Christ. If, in the anticipations of faith, the crown of thorns bud into the crown of glory that fadeth not away, then is there a certain charm thrown around trials and sufferings, which, so they be endured for Christ's sake, can furnish to the devout believer a very earnest of never ending blessedness with the church of the first born, whose names are written in Heaven.

But if special encouragement be vouchsafed in the performance of any special duties, we honour God by giving due heed to this intimation of His good pleasure, since we magnify His wisdom and love when we avail ourselves of whatever aid He has afforded to us in running the way of His commandments. The Apostle suggests the moral of our text, by hinging upon it this fitting admonition: "As we have therefore opportunity let us do good unto all men, and specially unto them that are of the household of faith."

If there is no man living, about the welfare of whom we may safely be unconcerned—If we are "members one of another" in a sense the most intimate and affecting, yet must we consider some men to be marked out by the finger of God as those who