

though we were taught that out of these hours of tribulation abiding blessings would come.

How much of the felicity of life has its root deep down in our ignorance of the morrow. Hope, God's sweet-voiced angel, could sing no song of trust within our hearts, if the future were an open and easily read book. It is surprising, when we come to think of it, how we get strength and comfort from the unexpected rather than the anticipated events of life. The letter we did not wait for, the chance meeting with the dear friend, the unlooked-for discovery, these and sweet surprises of like nature, have done more to add to our real felicity than the carefully planned-for and eagerly anticipated hours, out of which we had hoped to derive so much joy and profit.

But the blessedness of not knowing is most clearly demonstrated when we consider how ignorance of the future contributes to the development of character. We walk by faith, and to this we owe what strength of purpose there is in us. But faith would be made void through absolute or even comparatively certain knowledge of what the morrow will bring forth. How many noble enterprises would die in their birth, if their promoters could foresee how slight their share in the achievement of the wished for good must be. How many noble deeds would remain undone if their apparent futility were revealed to the consciousness of the actors.

A brave youth recently resigned his chance of escape from death by drowning that his companion, a married man, might be saved. Alas, for his self-sacrifice, the man for whom he gave his life perished with himself in the cruel waters. Had that youth foreseen the future, his act of self-forgetfulness would never have been performed. And how regrettable that would have been. The young man would thus have missed his great opportunity to enter into fellowship with the Christ who pleased not Himself, and who would not save His own life that He might become the Saviour of others. And we should have lost the moral tonic which his heroism has supplied.