

sin and the necessity of repentance, must become habitual. Then the former will be a delightful, and the latter a cherished, duty.

Walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord will thus reveal to the Christian the "path of the just, which is as the shining light that shineth more and more, until the perfect day."

The reason that there is so great a contrast between Christians in regard to Holiness is not so much, because God has bestowed upon one gifts and graces which the other cannot obtain, as that one has been "instant in season and out of season" in his duty, has given "all diligence to make his calling and election sure," has been incessant and pains-taking in his work; and has, therefore, found a continual blessing in his course, whilst the other, beginning with perhaps greater advantages and more grace, is negligent and careless in his daily duties, confers with flesh and blood, pleases men, strives for riches or for fame. At first he neglects duty with much remorse, afterward without compunction; making excuses for his departure from God, such as peculiarity of circumstances or constitutional temperament, and finally, if open apostacy is avoided, he becomes contented with a routine of formalities, with which he would deceive himself with "a name to live, while he is yet dead."

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THE BANIAN TREE.

It is among the especial privileges of the Christian, that he is enabled to turn to his advantage every thing by which he is surrounded. There has been much seeking among men to find out the philosopher's stone; a stone by which, it has been said, a man may turn into gold every thing that he touches. This is a fable; but

it is no fable that the Christian, when he is mercifully enabled to live up to his privileges, can turn every thing that occurs to his own advantage.

It is not one thing only, but "all things," that work together for good to them that love God." When the Christian looks around him, "the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy work." "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." "The sea is his, and he made it, and his hands formed the dry land." If the Christian be poor, his mouth is filled with prayers, and "the Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." If he be rich, his mouth is filled with praises, and "it is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord." If he have health, he is grateful for the blessing, and anxious to spend it in extending God's glory. If he have sickness, he knows that "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Health is a great blessing, but sanctified affliction is a greater. Thus in whatever state he may be, he learns therewith to be content, for mercy and goodness follow him all the days of his life. And when he walks through the valley of the shadow of death he fears no evil, for the rod and staff of his Redeemer sustain him.

We have need of such encouraging reflections as these, for though we profess to believe that God gave his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to redeem us from the punishment due to our transgressions, and to prepare for us "a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;" yet poor, unworthy, sinful, and unbelieving creatures as we are, we go on, day after day, doubting and desponding, when our souls ought to magnify the Lord, and our spirits to rejoice in God our Saviour. What a mercy it