

and abrasion. When two branches rub against each other in the wind, the resin will often cement them, so that they will grow together. It is the resin which defies all wood-boring insects. The cedar beams of the temple of Apollo at Utica remained sound

for 1,200 years, and the dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, lasted from the time of Constantine till it was burned in 1508. The cedar which was used for purification (see Lev. 14 : 6) was the Phœnician juniper, an entirely different plant.

APPLICATION

I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark . . . under curtains, v. 1. A faithful minister on enquiring from one of his parishioners whether he kept family worship regularly or not, was informed that he did so in summer, but not in winter, for then they could not see. "But you might buy candles", suggested the minister. "Ay, sir", was the reply, "but in that case I am afraid the cost might overgang the profit." This man would have accepted eagerly the offer of a rich neighbor to become a partner in his business and give him the benefit of his wealth. But he had the opportunity of beginning each day by entering anew into partnership with God, and refused it for the sake of a candle. We cannot afford to be without God's presence and help. Any trouble taken by us to make these more real will bring to us a rich reward.

God is with thee, v. 2. In the soft stillness of the night, when the fevered little head falls into a restless sleep, who is it that hearkens to every breath and notes every moan of distress? Is it not the mother? Wearied with the long vigil, the most attentive nurse may become listless, the most devoted friend drowsy. But nothing escapes the mother. Her love is always present, her footstep quick at the suppressed cry of pain. But greater than a mother's love is God's, and nearer than a mother's help is His presence.

Since thy Father's arm sustains thee,

Peaceful be ;

When a chastening hand restrains thee,
It is He !

Know His love in full completeness

Fills the measure of thy weakness ;

If He wound thy spirit sore,

Trust Him more.

I took thee . . . I have been with thee . . . I will ordain a place, vs. 7, 8, 9. "Mother", asked a little Sunday School scholar, "will Deacon

Jenks go to heaven when he dies?" "I think so", said the mother.

"Deacon Jenks" "Well", continued the boy,

"I hope he won't." "Why, dear, do you have such naughty hopes?"

"Because if he gets there, he will want to run the whole place." We are prone to overestimate our own importance, and to think that no undertaking can succeed unless we are directing it. "Deacon Jenks" is too apt to forget that God can plan His own work, and choose His own agents, and that even the venerated deacon himself, now a ruler in the church, was called, qualified and placed there by a Greater than himself.

From the sheepcote, v. 7. From sheepcote to throne, is an entrancing ideal of a successful career. Yet it is no chance luck nor accidental fortune that brings such

Trifles That Tell promotion. We may be sure that God selected David for king, not because he was a dilatory and discontented shepherd, but because of the exceptional care with which he watched over the sheep and the little lambs. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" (Luke 16 : 10). The way to promotion is to do the present task with all diligence. "You have been idle", said a visitor to the studio of the famous Michael Angelo. "No", said that great sculptor, "I have added more strength to this muscle, touched up this lip, softened this feature." "Mere trifles", remarked the visitor. "It is attention to trifles", said the famous man, "that brings greatness ; and greatness is no trifle."

He shall build me an house, v. 12. It is told of Sir Christopher Wren, the famous architect of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, that he heard that some workmen who were at work on this splendid structure, had been guilty of profane swearing. He immediately

Who Are Fit to
Build the
House of God