

blessings hereafter. To decide what will, and what will not serve our spiritual interests must be left with God, and, while we perform faithfully every duty, and are diligent in the use of all our powers and possessions, we must leave results to Him, and He will keep all that we commit to Him against that day.

The only true idea of good is spiritual. That is our good which will make us like Christ and develop the powers of our souls to the highest degree of efficiency, and which will open up a way for us to use these abilities for the benefit of our fellows, and the glory of our God. We are to be transformed into the image of Christ, that we may resemble Him in our love, our self-denial and sympathy, our words and works, our humility, and spirituality and eternal glory. Already those who love are the sons of God, but it doth not yet appear what we shall be, for we are pressing on to perfection. It is not a perfection that is selfish—love prohibits that. It is inseparably connected with our duties to others. The Christian is to get outside of self, and think of them and his Master, and his own soul will flourish by means of this self-denial. It is only when thus Christ-like that we can be truly happy and able in all things to fulfil the will of God. Only this fulfilment can fit us for our future sphere of existence, which is to reign over our Father's universe as heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.

All things, then, work together in one grand unity for this good. It is not one thing here, and another there, giving us a little benefit separately, but everything that is under God's government combines its powers with everything else to bless you and me. The promise is high as heaven, great and abiding as the omnipotence and love of God, and long and broad as eternity. You cannot make it too comprehensive in its sweep, or too direct in its application to yourself. No matter what other

worlds may be in themselves, the fact remains that they serve us, for, although we have got over believing that the sun and stars are satellites of our planet, we know that one of their functions is to bring light and joy to men. How far the world of spirits is connected with ours, it is impossible to determine, but we know that death and the hate of Satan are made to aid us, and that "the angels are ministering spirits sent forth to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation." The great events of the past, such as the movements of nations, the changes in society, the religious upheavals, the wars and tumults, the peace and prosperity, and, above all, the faith in Jesus Christ, that have brought the world to its present condition, have all worked together for our good. We can see how they have brought us great blessings, both temporal and spiritual, when we compare our condition with that of heathen nations, and that they have done so is no bare chance, but the result of our Father's wise decrees and over-ruling power, exercised with special reference to you personally, since you were included in those decrees. To the same end tend all the powers of earth that are beyond our control. The elements that regulate our material well-being, the accidents that result from their conflict or our mismanagement, the laws of nature that generally serve us, but occasionally threaten our destruction, are all under the government of God, and can only fulfil His will, neither falling short of it, nor going beyond it, and consequently are made to serve His children. In the same way does He work when men's interests and work seem to collide, and when what would help one would hurt another. If each could arrange the weather, for instance, to suit himself, what rare conflicting of the elements there would be. But God is able to supply the needs—not the wants, remember, but the needs—of all His children, and whatever He