

Or they fear heresy and wildfire. So much has been written about "perfection" and "sanctification" in conflict with the Bible and Church standards, and so many have made shipwreck and run wild, that the spectres of grim and ghastly errors rise up to affright them from the very first step. Now, a book which should clearly point out what is warranted by the Bible and the standards, and shew it in plain and full contrast with what is condemned by them, would be hailed by such persons as an angel messenger from heaven, beckoning them onward and upward to the land of Beulah.

A few, at least,—probably more than any one knows or thinks,—are convinced, and feeling after something they scarce know what, whatever it is, set before them; but they move fearfully, spectres affright and hinder, but do not wholly stop them. Or if they urge their way regardless of these, their struggles are wearisome and vain. Often and often they put forth the hand to touch the spring of the door to admit the light; but, alas! the hand finds only the cold dead wall, and recoils from it with a chill, only to be stretched forth again and again, to be withdrawn in disappointment. With what untold joy would these struggling, groping ones receive and devour a book which should shew up to them the Way, the Truth, the Life, and point out also the many false ways they must avoid to gain the true, and walk in it!

Some have already found the way, and are glad journeyers therein. They are on the sunny side; they have gained the heights of Beulah, and delight in everything that relates to it. They would rejoice in anything defining to them distinctly the relations of this blessed Christian life to further Christian progress, and to all Christian duty. And, moreover, they would be thankful to God for a book which they could safely put into the hands of others, hopeful of good, fearless of evil; one they could heartily commend as unfolding the fulness of the blessings of the Gospel, without feeling under the necessity of cautioning and warning against false theories, wrong terms, or evil tendencies.

Whether this shall prove the book wanted, God knoweth—time will shew, and the reader will judge.

CHAPTER II.—HISTORICAL EXAMPLE.

"Lift up a standard for the people."—ISAIAH lxii. 10.

THE Bible abounds in examples. In God's Holy Word sin and holiness come up and pass on before us in living forms, rather than in abstract teachings. Truth and falsehood are first lived out, and then recorded for the world's instruction. The mercies and judgments of God are set before us in striking examples. The rescue of Noah, saved amidst the desolations of a world drowned in the flood; Lot, delivered from the devouring fires which laid in ashes Sodom and Gomorrah; the children of Israel, passing the Red Sea