

CHRIST'S ABILITY TRANSCENDING OUR INABILITY.

"*We be not able.*"—Num. 13: 31. "*He is able.*"—Hebrews 7: 25.

A FRIEND telephoned me a few days ago to meet him at the Grand Trunk Station, where he would introduce me to a gentleman from China who, he thought, would likely be able to give me some useful information about the journey. I went. The gentleman had to catch a train, and just arrived when it was time to start. I was hurriedly introduced.

"Oh," said he, "you're going to China, are you?"

"Yes," I answered.

"Well, I'm sorry to have to tell you, you'll not make many converts there. I know, because I've lived in China thirty-one years myself. Good-bye." The train then moved off.

And so did I; not in a particularly bright mood, either. I had set aside another appointment to meet this man, and needless to say did not consider the interview satisfactory. Indeed, I may as well confess, I went about my business that day vainly endeavoring to suppress a suspicion that the bluntly spoken stranger,—whose own interest was the only thing that had kept him in China for thirty-one years—had never *tried* to convert the Chinese or anyone else. Was he even converted himself? The interview was too brief to form a judgment on that point.

I have related the incident merely to introduce another. A private farewell social gathering was breaking up several evenings later when another friend, in wishing me good-bye, said,

"Mr. MacVicar, will you take Isaiah forty-one and ten with you to China?"

I thanked him, and made a mental note of the passage.

It was late before I reached home, as the evening was well advanced when we separated—in fact, it was early morning. The streets were empty, and their very loneliness tended to summon up thoughts of some of the discouragements that had recently been presenting themselves: for somehow or other, the nearer the time for our departure has been approaching, the more people have thought fit to bring under our notice all the discouraging things