

of the Bible by heart, as you read it every day, don't you?"

"Yes, to be sure I do, your grace; but you see, I am not a minister, so as to be able to say chapter and verse where such and such a passage is to be found."

"Well, then, I will help you a little. Don't you recollect a passage of the kind in the Epistle to the Romans? Or do you never read that epistle?"

"To be sure I do," answered Heinrich. "I was reading it even so recently as last week."

"Then you must know that there is a strong warning against the worshipping of images in the first chapter."

"Oh yes, I do; your grace is so kind as to help me on the way. I recollect the apostle there describes the horrible idolatry of the Gentiles."

"Quite so. Just take your Bible and read that passage to me, will you?"

Heinrich took the book and opened it at the indicated place; but how great was his astonishment when a gold coin dropped out upon the floor.

"Dear me—what is that—a gold louis d'or—how did it ever get there?"

"I will tell you," answered the Duke, in a serious voice, "I put it there three weeks ago. I now see that you are a liar and a hypocrite. Go to the stable and see if my coach is ready. I will go, and you shall not see me again. Idolaters are bad, but liars and hypocrites are worse still."

The Duke drove off; Heinrich never saw him again, but he received the iron furnace, which was to him a perpetual remembrance of the Duke's just anger and rebuke.

It is a good thing to fight for the Protestant creed and doctrine, if the battle proceeds from love to truth, and from the cordial desire to rescue an erring soul from perdition; but nothing can be worse to the good cause, and nothing deserves greater contempt, than attacking a wrong system in a quarrelsome spirit.

SONG OF GLADNESS.

HALLELUJAH! song of gladness,
Song of everlasting joy;
Hallelujah! song the sweetest
That can angel-hosts employ;
Hymning in God's holy presence
Their high praise eternally.

Hallelujah! strains of gladness
Suit not souls with anguish torn;
Hallelujah! notes of sadness
Best besit our state forlorn:
For, in this dark world of sorrow,
We, with tears, our sin must mourn.

But our earnest supplication,
Holy God, we raise to Thee;
Bring us to Thy blissful presence,
Make us all Thy joys to see;
Then we'll sing our Hallelujah,—
Sing to all eternity.

COMPANIONS IN TRIBULATION.

WE are naturally inclined to think our own trials and temptations greater than those of others, because, being our own, we know them better and feel them more deeply. Many a sufferer thinks there are no sufferings like his, and many a person when tempted to sin supposes that his case is quite peculiar. But this is not true. Whatever trials we may have there are probably other people who are suffering much the same, and the temptations that beset us are felt by many beside us. Our temptations are those of numbers, and some are tempted as we have never been.

Now this thought helps us to bear temptation. It is not, as we were inclined to suppose, some new and strange thing that has befallen us. We are not alone in what we suffer. We have many fellow-sufferers, fellow-soldiers. We do but form parts of one great whole. It is a cheering and helpful thought, and so it seems to be set before us in the text: "Whom resist, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

The person meant by this word "whom" is the devil, the enemy of souls, spoken of in the verse before, "Because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." We are told to resist him. This is the way in which we are always to meet him. He makes his attacks in various ways; sometimes by open assault, sometimes by secret snare; now by outward temptations, now by inward suggestions. He seeks occasion against us in our moments of weakness. He strives to lead into sin, unbelief, doubt, fear, self-confidence. He has a thousand different weapons against the soul. But all are to be met with resistance—"whom resist." He is an enemy, a deadly enemy. We must not yield, but resist.

Yet not in our own strength, or we shall certainly fall. "Whom resist, steadfast in the faith." Satan desired to have Peter and his brother apostles that he might sift them as wheat. Jesus prayed for him that his faith might not fail. But Peter was self-confident, and thought he could stand in his own strength. What was the consequence? He fell, fell grievously, and was restored by sovereign grace alone. Doubtless he was permitted to fall that he might learn this lesson, "Whom resist, steadfast in the faith," and now we find him teaching the same lesson to us and to all.

"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." "When I am weak, then am I strong." The first step towards strength is to know our weakness. We are to be steadfast, not in self, but in faith; confident in God, relying upon His promises, His wisdom, power, and love. We are to meet temptation in such a spirit as this, feeling sure that all temptation, and Satan himself, the author of it, is completely subject to God; not doubting that He will help in answer to prayer, holding fast by Him through all, even though there be no token of His presence, and