

And we conclude it is the height of folly to let the fanaticism of ill-balanced and ignorant minds dispossess us of our undoubted birth-right. Friends in Christ, we have an unction from the Holy One, and know all things, and need not that any man should teach us; but let us see to it that we attempt not to make the Holy One a party to personal rancour, to censorious fault-finding, or spiritual pride, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Then, although we have this *treasure* in earthen vessels, the excellency shall be seen to be of God and not of men; thus whilst

“God’s is all the glory,
Man’s is the boundless bliss.”



PROFESSORS OF HOLINESS A SOURCE OF TRIAL TO ONE ANOTHER.

Whilst those who travel along the highway of holiness derive great advantage from the communion of saints, it must not be forgotten that their keenest trials come, apparently, from the same class. When our loving Master calls us to pass under discipline, He frequently uses the human sources of blessing as the agency of our severest suffering.

Thus in the case of Job, it was by causing all the former springs of joy to flow with bitterness that he was tried to the uttermost. And not the least of these was the fact that his special friends, in whose godly society he had often delighted himself, seemed to turn against him, and in their zeal for God lectured him until he could truthfully exclaim, “Miserable comforters are ye all.” So in the temptations of our greater Pattern, the trials, which most of all seemed to penetrate to the quick and draw out words of anguish, came from friends. “Will ye also go away?” uttered when His own disciples meditated desertion, show more than mere reproach; they speak of intense suffering. But what of the cry of broken-hearted anguish, when even the face of the Father seemed averted, “My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?” Was it not that the source of all joy had now proved the source of all possible trial? Now He is our example—tempted in all points like as we are; and the servant is not above his Master.

Many who walk in the highway of holiness are astonished when