

and perfect love blended all hearts into one. In none of our meetings was "the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace" more manifest than in the subsequent meetings of the Continental pastors; and the baptism of love vouchsafed in the circumstances stated constituted one of the main causes which imparted such a divine character to that Conference.

There were, aside from the course adopted, two others, either of which those pastors might have pursued relatively to the feelings and sentiments referred to. They might, as is too commonly done in similar circumstances, have entered into a direct conflict with those feelings, and attempted their repression by dint of their own mental determinations. In that case, they would have met with a disastrous defeat, and "Satan would have sifted them as wheat." Or they might have concealed those feelings, and mingled in the exercises as if possessed of the spirit of "brotherly love." In that case they would have made themselves "mockers and their bands would have become strong," and all the influences around them would have had a blighting effect upon all their Christian virtues. There was but one thing to be done at the time and under the circumstances then existing, namely, to put the case, as they did, into the hands of Jesus.

Let the facts before us teach the reader this life-lesson, viz., whenever any mental state, any fact of experience, or any event of Providence, perplexes you, do not stop to bewilder yourself about what has occurred, nor attempt for a moment to adjust or regulate the case yourself. Talk with Jesus about it, and put it at once and wholly into His hands. Then, without fail, two results will follow—deliverance full and complete from the existing perplexity; and great enlargement such as you never experienced before. We are never so near a great enlargement as when brought into great perplexity, provided the case is at once, with "full assurance of faith," put into the hands of Christ.

A friend of mine, many years ago, lost suddenly the wife of his youth. Few have loved as he had done, and the agony

of bereavement made him the wonder of all who knew him. When told that God had bereaved him in wisdom and love, his reply was, "I suppose it is so, but I can't see it. None but God can make this event plain to my mind, and I shall hold my case before Him until He clears away this horror of great darkness." He accordingly "went and told Jesus" about his bereavement, and how much he was suffering from it, and what a mystery it was to him. While thus employed this passage came with ineffable force and sweetness to his mind: "Thy Maker is thy husband; the Lord of Hosts is his name, and thy Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel."

Knowing that that passage was written for all bereaved hearts in common, he said at once, "Well, that will do. If the Lord my Redeemer will come, and Himself occupy the place made void in my heart by the taking from me 'the desire of my eyes,' that will be more than satisfactory, and will clear away the mystery in which this case is involved. I shall then know the purpose for which I was bereaved—that 'God might be to me an everlasting light, and my God my glory.'"

The Lord did come to him, and not only filled that void, but flooded his whole being with the consciousness of the Divine presence and love. His great sorrow was supplanted by "everlasting consolations and good hope through grace." As he began to tell others of his new-born joy the church was revived, and many sinners were converted through his influence in the place where he resided. Nor did his mission stop there. He became a lay evangelist to all the churches round, and before his death many believers found enlargement, and many hundreds of sinners were "added to the Lord" through his direct instrumentality.

We are always in the immediate presence of great enlargement and eternally enduring joys and consolations, when any cares or sorrows, any great cares or sorrows especially, press upon our hearts. Jesus will turn our darkness into eternal sunlight provided our cares and sorrows are told and committed to Him.