

obeyed, and to whom alone we left our vindication, interposed on our behalf with his miracles of grace, and so enabled us to

"Vindicate the ways of God to men."

We suspect that no ministerial member of the Association has had a greater faith battle with Quarterly Boards or Stationing Committees than the above. But every one, so situated, who has been true to the Spirit has been able, with us, and with Paul, to shout: "Now thanks be to God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ."

Yes, there will be faith battles which will call to the front every ounce of reserve force in us, in this lonely obedient walk in the Spirit, but provision is made for complete, absolute victory, so that the rest of Christ will be our portion as we face and conquer Satan at every step of this way.

During our fights of faith we were made to see that the Association was a very small atom in our existence, and so if it had not sanctioned our work we would simply have grieved over them and gone on our way rejoicing in God to find another field of labor. Nor could we imagine ourselves putting forth the slightest efforts to sway their decision, or commiserating ourselves because of their want of harmony with us. We had fought the battle out to its finale with God alone, and so His perfect peace had entered our being, and we would neither defend our course nor play on the sympathies of the least one of them all.

Just so we recognize the independence of all who walk with God. When difficulties come across their path, no matter how formidable, they retire into themselves until taught of God concerning them, and then when they do speak it is as the oracles of God, and God, not they, vindicates their acts.

But, whilst thus at one with God, they are conscious of the larger possibilities of their lives as the number of those who walk with God increases, and rejoice accordingly.

If we are on the Lord's side, gratitude demands that we show our colours.

ONE OF THE OUTCOMES OF THESE MIGHTY FAITH BATTLES.

Knowing by experience what it requires to obtain victory in every faith battle, a species of dread for others comes to us, which is provocative of sadness on their account.

How few will literally forsake *all* to follow Christ! No sooner do the affections cling around some cherished object than it would seem by some perverse fate that the pathway of obedience pointed across that object, requiring us, in our walk of faith, to tread it in the dust. And seldom do we reach the point of cheerful obedience ere we are tempted, and almost hug the temptation, to believe that God, in this His exacting mood, delights to find out our cherished objects and require us, Abraham-like, to destroy them with our own sacrificial knife. And, generally, ere we accept God's way, we try every other way which our human ingenuity can suggest, or the still more ingenious tempter make known to us.

The faintest hope that eternal salvation can be obtained from any other source than obedient walk in the Spirit will lead us off in any direction that hope may point to. It is thus we account for the fact that parties who have been brought in contact with this movement have rushed off into unseemly physical demonstrations, to doctrines about dress, two natures, baptisms of fire, fantastic notions about healing of the body, and even to the privations of the foreign mission field. Anything and everything else is embraced with eagerness as easier than the absolute walk in the Spirit. What wonder then that as we contemplate these frantic efforts to gain soul rest by ways which outrage every instructive feeling of humanity rather than by the simple way of the cross, that intense sadness should at times fill our heart and lead us to exclaim, "Lord who hath believed our report;" for the true Christ in the Holy Ghost is before them as a root out of a dry ground. There is no form or comeliness in Him that they should desire Him.

But our sorrow of heart cannot alter