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THE TRUE STAFF OF LIFE.

A SERMON

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"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matthew 4: 4.

THE circumstances under which these words were uttered were of a very trying nature. The Saviour was, at that moment, suffering with hunger. He had fasted forty days and forty nights. To this were added the struggles of temptation—a most unwelcome compliment indeed—but the tempter seems to take advantage of a man's darkest hours and weakest moments as being the most suitable and promising periods for attack. So here. He assails the blessed Redeemer with his fiery darts, when in His most straitened circumstances; and endeavours to bring about His fall. Jesus, however, knew with whom He had to deal. He was equal to the occasion, even though in a famishing condition. He withstood the attack nobly and successfully. The Rock of Ages cannot be moved. In this, His trying moment, He did not lose sight or hold of the true principle of life.

When darkness seemed to envelope Him like a cloud and the floods rushed upon Him, He still held His eye upon the Light that gladdens and guides the soul when all others fail. He betook Himself to the true and impenetrable asylum. He grasped firmly, and acted accordingly, the mystery of existence of life. Straitened circumstances tend to raise the soul to a true conception of what life really is. It thus derives true and renewed strength so as to enable him to cope successfully with the occasion. In the instance