

God is in Change.

ANNA D. BRADLEY.

To-day, a little girl read aloud, "God is in change." Laughingly correcting herself, she read again, and this time it was, "God is in charge."

But all day long the pretty child's careless blunder kept with me, and I seemed to hear repeated over and over again, "God is in change." It was a beautiful thought to me, and it seemed to be a new attitude in which I could view my Father.

Ah me, our ever shifting lives! How weary we become! And though we strive to be content, still, often, we cannot help but secretly long for the quiet rest and calm uniformity which marks the life of our neighbor.

But, if we only understood, we would not demur. We would not, even if we could, have it different from what it is, if we did but realize that in every change that can come to us our Guide and Comforter has entered it before us, adapting it to our needs, and making it the very best thing that could come to us and ours.

Your life and mine, dear brother, sister, has been so very different from what in our bright, expectant youth we had proudly planned. Nothing has been just the same which we had fondly hoped it would be. Yet still your checkered life and mine has been the very best for you and me; for God has directed all of our movements, and has been in every change.

"He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps."

What need we care—we, the loved children of God—even though we must travel in this way or in that? We are trusting to a love that cannot fail, to an arm which is as tender as it is strong. If you and I should continue to walk the way we most prefer, perhaps we might never meet our Father there; but journeying in the path He chooses for us, lo, God is in every change!

We bask in the sunlight, and our Father is there with us. We shrink from the shadows; yet there is no need, for still He is close beside us. Death comes into our circle and bears our best loved ones away. But arms divine are clasped about us, while a voice, not of earth, is whispering to our breaking heart, "Be still, and know that I am God; and when the mists have all been rolled away then you shall understand."

Other sorrows more cruel far than death mayhap have come to some who care to read this page. But over these I draw a veil of silence. There are some bleeding wounds upon which I

would not dare to lay my clumsy, though well meaning, hands.

Yet this I would remind the grieving hearts. Not one who treads these thorn-strewn paths of anguish walks alone. In all of your afflictions the One who loved you first and best is sore afflicted too; and walking very close beside you, He gently murmurs, "Lo, I am with you always."

And in the last great earthly change, which not one of us can escape, even there we are not alone. For even as we walk through the valley and the shadow of death we need fear no evil, for He is with us still, comforting and supporting us all the while.

When we stand before "The Great White Throne" to give an account for the life we have lived, are we then alone? Ah no. For He who has been with us in every change will still be near us in every change will still be near us then, and while He compassionately strengthens our trembling soul by whispering assuringly, "Fear no evil, for I am with thee." He speaks aloud to the righteous Judge of all the earth and says, "I am her Shield and her exceeding great reward."

Then take courage. In life, in death and throughout all eternity, "God is in every change."

Argument for Total Abstinence.

One of the strongest arguments for total abstinence of which we have heard comes from the practical experiment of a number of workingmen in England. The question of total abstinence was being discussed in a meeting at the close of a lecture in favor of it by the late Mr. Silk Buckingham. A workingman arose and said it was very well for a gentleman like the chairman or "a parliament man," but for hard-working men like himself to do without beer was perfectly ridiculous. In this sentiment a group of his friends concurred. The speaker then inquired, "Have you ever tried it? If not, how are you able to judge?" He then proposed to adjourn the meeting for a month, have the men try the experiment, and then come together and give their honest verdict. They agreed to do this. When the night of the second meeting arrived, the building was crowded two hours before the time to commence. When the meeting opened the same workingman made an address substantially as follows:

"We have kept our promise made one month ago, and from that time to this none of us have tasted intoxicating drink. We have continued to the end, improving sensibly as we have proceeded; and as we had not been a



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single day or even an hour absent from work during that period, there were no deductions for lost time. So that, besides being stronger, healthier and happier than we were before, we had each of us at the end of the fourth week from thirty to forty shillings more in our pockets than formerly. We rejoice, therefore, that we attended the first meeting, though we came to oppose it, and we mean to persevere as we have begun, and recommend all workingmen to follow our example." — *Outlook*.

An Inspiring Example.

Gladstone says that advice chills, but example inspires. Who is not roused to higher living by the example of Chrysostom when summoned before the Roman Emperor.

When threatened with banishment should he persist in adhering to the Christian faith, he replied: "The world is my Father's house; thou canst not banish me."

"But I will slay thee," said the Emperor.

"Thou canst not," said the historic man; "for my life is hid with Christ in God."

"I will take away thy treasures.

"Nay," was the answer. "In the first place, I have none that thou knowest of. My treasure is in heaven, and my heart is there."

"But I will drive thee away from thy friends."

"Not so," answered Chrysostom. "I have a friend in heaven from whom thou canst not separate me. I defy thee; there is nothing thou canst do to hurt me." — *Ram's Horn*.

You Don't Have to Swear Off

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