

of His people. God often suffers us, as He did St. Paul, to be persecuted by ungodly men, and to endure trials which might indeed crush us had we help *only in man*—but we have a refuge to fly unto—and if God be for us, who can be against us ; and we must acknowledge that He knows what is best for the good of His Church and the glory of Himself—and also that ‘whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and correcteth every son whom He receiveth.’ There is exceeding great comfort given to us from the consideration of the words of this passage, the thought that we are made the instrument of exalting God’s power in the earth, and that we are working for a master whose rewards, if they are not of this world which perishes in the using, are of far more exceeding and great glory—even an everlasting habitation in the boundless realms of joy and peace, is most cheering and greatly calculated to increase our faith and prayers for continual supplies of this grace. St. Paul’s life and preaching must be a means of affording us all great hope and comfort, from his conversion which shews that God chooses His instruments often without regard to actual then possessed moral rectitude of character, and that when he does set them apart and sanctify them for a holy purpose, He makes them means of good, by the aid of His own precious Spirit, and says to them, in all their trials and difficulties, which may and almost always do come upon them sooner or later in their work in the Church, ‘Lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world.’ ”