

who should come after him, as a faith which had proved its worth and strength in every conflict. There are those who in the strife lose confidence in "the faith once delivered to the saints." And who fear that the gospel of Jesus Christ is not equal to the work of saving the world, and has lost its power to take possession of men's hearts. Therefore they are disposed to depart from it, or to add to it. But the apostles did not find it a weak instrument in their hands. It was equal to all that was demanded of it, and by the preaching of it the kingdom of Satan was overthrown, and the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ was established in many lands. And there is the same power in the gospel still, where it is preached with apostolic zeal and faithfulness. Therefore let us rejoice in those, who through long lives of toil and conflict have by the grace of God "kept the faith" entrusted to them, and who have handed it down to us as they received it, in its fullness and purity. Let us set a just value upon their lives, and upon that which they have left us. And let us also fight the "good fight," finish with diligence the course appointed to us, and "keep the faith."

Let us mark briefly—the crown of victory—the reward of the righteous.

The Lord does not ask us to serve him without recognition from him. But that full and sufficient recognition of all that his servants have done in his name shall not be made here, on the earth, but in the future world. Here we must bear the cross. But the patient bearing of the cross will end in our receiving the crown of everlasting reward. There will be in the day of final award a great reversing of the positions which men have occupied in relation to one another on the earth. And the servants of God who have toiled and suffered here without adequate recognition, or without recognition at all, shall in that day receive the crown. Of the glory of that crown we cannot speak, because we do not understand the nature