

another, and emotions of holy joy and thanksgiving sanctified the place of coarse vice and vulgar traffic." Further on along the way, at a place called the Three Taverns, another companion, of brethren from the city welcomed him, "whom when he saw, he thanked God and took courage." These brethren from Rome had shown their christian spirit, as we all might do: (1) In their consideration for the apostle's circumstances. (2) In their self-denying effort to encourage him by meeting him. He was a sensitive man; he enjoyed the presence of fellow laborers; he was anxious for the cause he had at heart. Therefore when he saw them he "took courage." The presence of friends inspires hope, Hope lightens the landscape. Whether we will be encouraged by the presence of brethren, however, depends on their character. The church at Rome had in it the weak and the strong. Paul says of a later time: "At my first answer, no man stood with me, but all men forsook me." Again he speaks of noble men and women of this church who were distinguished for their faithfulness and courage in Christ's service. Learn how much we can do by our mere presence to encourage the work and servants of Christ. Where are you when God's servants need encouragement? The remaining ten miles of the way he went with renewed courage, and when they reached Rome, the centurion, who had treated Paul so courteously, gave up his charge to the captain of the guard, whose name was Burrus, and who was one of the confidential servants of the emperor. No doubt Julius would use his influence on behalf of the apostle, so that though he had to comply with the law of military custody, having his right arm fastened by a chain to the left arm of the guard, he was "suffered to dwell by himself."

Thus the apostle came as a prisoner to the

court of Cæsar. The ambassador of Jesus Christ in bonds? He passed unnoticed in the throng, who crowded the Appian Way, and yet he was destined to wield a more powerful influence in the Roman empire than any of its greatest and wisest teachers. In his case was exemplified his own word, in 1 Cor. 1: 27, how "God had chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."

There could scarcely have been a humbler, more discouraging entrance into the city than that of the apostle of Jesus Christ. But God has always so ordered it that it shall be evident to all that the gospel depends for its success on spiritual forces, that the excellency of the power may be seen to be of God.

ADDED POINTS.

1. Show kindness to the unfortunate. Not to do so is to be less generous than the heathen often are.
2. Be ready to take your share of the work.
3. The vipers of temptation may fasten upon us, but if we pray and shake them off we shall suffer no harm.
4. Do not be quick to judge evil of others.
5. Show gratitude for kindness received from others.
6. God's plans for us cannot fail.

THE BLACKBOARD.

GOD	
TOOK	WILL TAKE
CARE OF	
PAUL	ME

"'Tis not in man

To look unmoved upon that heaving waste which, from horizon to horizon spread,
Meets the o'erarching heavens on every side, blending their hues in distant faintness there.
'Tis wonderful! And yet, my boy, just such is life. Life is a sea as fathomless,
As wide, as terrible, and yet sometimes as calm and beautiful. The light of heaven
Smiles on it, and 'tis decked with every hue of glory and of joy. Anon dark clouds
Arise, contending winds of fate go forth, and Hope sits weeping o'er a general wreck.
And thou must sail upon this sea a long, eventful voyage. The wise may suffer wreck,
The foolish must. Oh, then, be early wise! Learn from the mariner his skillful art—
To ride upon the waves and catch the breeze and dare the threatening storm and trace a path,
'Mid countless dangers, to the destined port, unerringly secure. Oh, learn from him
To station quick-eyed Prudence at the helm, to guard thy sail from Passion's sudden blasts,
And make Religion thy magnetic guide, which though it trembles as it lowly lies,
Points to the light that changes not,—in heaven."—Anon.