

CONVICTIONS.—As to any personal convictions, we remark, that whilst not called on to make any predictions concerning the issue of our sickness, still what convictions we had all pointed to this sickness as needed preparation for additional work in helping mankind.

We have received letters from some who individually inquired of God concerning the matter when our illness was at its height, and their uniform testimony was that they were assured that the sickness was not unto death. Indeed, so strong was this conviction to us that it was a matter of surprise when, afterward, we learned how doubtful our medical attendant was, at one time, of the issue.

WHAT ABOUT THE PAIN.—From this we shrank with all our might. It was at no time agreeable. We submitted to it as yielding to God's will, and as filling up, according to Divine appointment, that which was our measure of "that which is behind of the sufferings of Christ for His body's sake, which is the Church." Life seems to us ever since to have clothed itself with a more sombre garment. For we have no revelation promising us immunity from suffering in future days or years. Hence there is at times an instinctive shrinking from life itself because of future possible suffering. And this, in spite of our undoubted faith in the fact that no good thing will be withheld from us in all coming time or eternity.

We can recall a time in our Christian experience when we would hesitate to write the above, from a superstitious fear that to admit such a shrinking would tend to bring the pain upon us. Just as many a person will speak with bated breath, if at all, of certain forms of sickness or death, lest their so doing might possibly bring the calamity upon them. But all such lingering traces of superstitious fears are eliminated from our being when we get to know God as a friend, "who sticketh closer than a brother." Hence we can write freely concerning such shrinkings, and yet know that neither they nor any thing else shall separate between us and God. Still are we confident that we will walk

with Him and drink the cup which He presents.

WORK.—From time to time we were called to do important work for the Master, either in conversation with individuals or by letter. The history of these incidents, however, we will not here narrate. Having no doubts concerning self or its surroundings to harass us or demand even passing attention, we were consequently able to utilize what strength we had without reserve to the advantage of others. Hence we do not look upon our sickness as a kind of blank in our life work; through it all we regarded ourselves as an active servant of the Master, "doing His will on earth as it is done in Heaven." Even now, as we resume our pen, whether temporarily or permanently, we feel that there has been no gap to bridge over. We simply go on with God's work in God's way, as we have done during the months past. Whilst keenly relishing our resumed writing for the EXPOSITOR, we would feel no pang of sorrow if many months more would pass ere continuing this kind of work for the Master.

CANNOT SEE THROUGH.—There are many things we cannot see through, but none that we cannot look above. It is said that John Wesley was once walking with a brother who related to him his troubles, saying he did not know what he should do. They were at that moment passing a stone fence to a meadow over which a cow was looking. "Do you know," asked Wesley, "why the cow looks over the wall?" "No," replied the one in trouble. "I will tell you," said Wesley: "Because she cannot look through it: and that is what you must do with your troubles—look above them."—*Sel.*

NOT QUITE WARM ENOUGH.—We can conceive of an incubator being just warm enough to spoil eggs, but never hot enough to hatch chickens. It is just so with many churches. They carry their work just far enough to fail in accomplishing the one great work for which the Church was organized—the salvation of men.—*Ram's Horn.*