

most humble, fearful, and jealous of themselves, have proved most resolute and valiant when God hath called them upon service.

—That you might not love the world, God suffers the world to hate you; that you might be crucified to the world, He suffers you to be crucified in the world.

—As there is a curse hid in the best things to wicked men, so there is a blessing hid in the worst things to God's people.

—How many can say, I had not been so rich in grace if I had not been so poor in gold. I had not been so sound in soul, if I had not been so infirm in body. If I had not lost so much of the creature, I had not got so much of Christ!

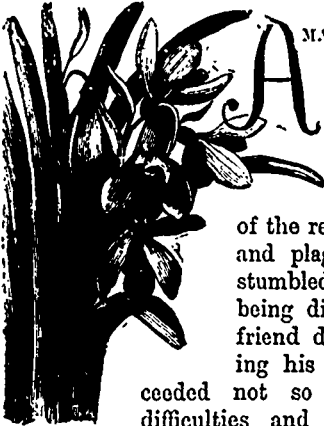
—When God puts us to a lesser trouble, it is for our greater good.

—A man's harbour may sometimes be more dangerous than the sea. Many have been lost in harbour who would have been safe at sea. A tempestuous sea is not so dangerous as an unsafe harbour.

—Christ is the Prince of Peace, but He is a conqueror first; where Christ doth not conquer and reign, there look for no peace with God, no peace with man.

From Bolton's "Tossed Ship."

THOU FOOL.



A MAN of intelligence, but of a very sceptical turn of mind, had had many conversations with his clergyman, and was always stumbling at the doctrine of the resurrection as a vexation and plague to his reason. He stumbled at that stumbling-block, being disobedient. His clerical friend did not succeed in reducing his scepticism, which proceeded not so much from particular difficulties and incredibilities in the mystery before him, as from a proud, self-relying dependence, not upon God, but upon his own reason.

At length for a long time they were separated. The clergyman did not meet the sceptic for years. Meanwhile the grace of God came into his heart, and he was converted, and became as a little child. All his scepticism departed, and now he listened only to God.

The first time he met his former friend after this great change, the clergyman said to him, "Well, my dear sir, and what do you think now of the doctrine of the resurrection?"

"Oh, sir," said he, "two words from Paul conquered me—'Thou fool!' Do you see this Bible?" (taking up a beautiful copy of the Scriptures, fastened with a silver clasp) "and will you read the words upon the clasp that shuts it?"

The clergyman read, deeply engraven on the silver clasp: "Thou fool!"

"There," said his friend, "are the words that conquered me; it was no argument, no reasoning, no satisfying my objections, but God convincing me that I was a fool; and thenceforward I determined I would have my Bible clasped with those words, 'Thou fool!' and never again would come to the consideration of its sacred mysteries but through their medium. I will remember that I am a fool, and God only is wise."

How striking, how affecting was this! Ah! this is the way to come to God's Word. Let every man put this clasp upon his Bible, "Thou fool!" and let him enter it, to sit at the feet of Jesus, and learn of Him, just as a little child, remembering the saying of David: "The entrance of Thy word giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."

THE BIBLE.



FOUNTAIN ever springing,
Where the wearied may repair,
The heavy burden bringing
Of sin and of despair.

A hive of honeyed treasure,
Distilled from Eden's bowers;
Where heaven-born hope, with pleasure,
May feed in wintry hours.

Drink for the soul that's thirsting,
Comfort for those that fear,
Balm for the heart when bursting,
May all be gathered here.

What added boon is wanting,
Thy blessing, Lord, must give,
The gift of faith by granting,
To read, believe, and live.

Barton.

THE FARM SERVANT'S PRAYER.



A FARM servant in Yorkshire had been persuaded to attend some religious services, in the course of which he was deeply convinced of sin, and led to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

It was a case of true conversion, and his altered life showed at once the power of his new-found faith.

In nothing was the change more evident than in the conscientious way in which he discharged all his duties to his master. He did more work than he had ever done before, and he did it more thoroughly. Nothing was neglected, and nothing was done in that careless, slipshod fashion in which, it is to be feared, too many servants do their work.

That is how it ought to be whenever a servant professes to be a Christian. It is what the Apostle Paul enjoined in his letter to the Ephesians; for, addressing servants—and those servants, it is to be remembered, were slaves—he exhorted them to render