

Safe to the land, safe to the land,—
The end is this ;
And then with Him go hand in hand
Far into bliss."

What are they among so many? v. 9. Philip and Andrew show two different ways of acting in the presence of a hard duty. Philip gives the whole thing up in despair. Andrew reckons up his resources, and does his best with these to accomplish the task. Andrew's way is better than Philip's. If the Church were all Philips, where would missions be? It is the planning Andrews who count, even if the "ways and means" are small. For as the five loaves and the two fishes, by the blessing of Christ, satisfied the multitude, so the most limited means have often accomplished the most wonderful results. William of Orange, with his few Hollanders, boldly defied the powerful Philip, and won. Carey went out to India under a missionary society whose funds amounted to less than seventy dollars. Let us not be afraid that our humble powers, if consecrated to Christ, will fail to achieve any task which He sets us. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4: 13 is the motto of faith.

Then those men, when they had seen the miracle

that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world, v. 14. The miracle convinced many that Jesus was the Messiah, and they were ready to carry Him in the arms of their sudden enthusiasm to the throne of David. But why were they so enthusiastic about Him? It was because they thought that He would provide for them food and drink without giving them the trouble of working for these. But Jesus did not wish then, and He does not wish now, to have subjects who serve Him only for what they can get. He seeks of His followers that they shall serve Him because they love Him and desire to be like Him.

Three thoughts may be added on the teaching of these miracles *concerning the connection between the use of means and the blessing of God:*

1. All means are inadequate without the divine blessing. The shrewdest and most business-like of the disciples could not devise a plan for feeding the multitude.

2. It is our duty to make diligent use of means. Andrew and the lad were right in bringing forward their slender provision.

3. The blessing of God crowns the use of apparently inadequate means with success. "God and one are a majority."

See Lesson I

POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS

Christ now looks out from His throne on the weary multitudes of earth with the same sympathy which He showed towards those who were toiling after Him up the steep paths of the mountain. v. 5.

We do not know the purpose of the tests that we have to endure ; but Christ knows. v. 6.

Christ not only knows all our needs, but knows how they are to be supplied. v. 6.

Philip is the father of all those who think that money is the chief element in the work of spreading the gospel among men. v. 7.

To suggest some way of meeting a difficulty is better than criticism, even if the way suggested is not perfect. (v. 8.) The Christian worker who is "practical" is invaluable.

"Lucky little lad," with your barley loaves

and fishes, to have been so helpful a co-laborer with the Divine Master that day! v. 9.

Obedience is our duty ; results are in the hands of God. v. 10.

Even the Pagans teach us to ask a blessing at our meals. (v. 11.) (See Exposition.)

He who feasts as Christ's guest will always have enough. (v. 11.) (See Phil. 4: 19.)

Although our Lord could make out of five loaves and two fishes provision for thousands, He would not allow a fragment to be wasted. (v. 12.) "Waste not, want not."

There is abundant provision in the gospel for the needs of every human soul. v. 13.

One deed of power counted far more in the eyes of these men than countless acts of holiness and love. v. 14.