

The Protestant preachers are commanded by the Superior Consistory of Prussia, the highest ecclesiastical authority in Germany, to desist from taking an interest in the social problems and agitations of the day. "It is not a part of their vocation to take part in political and social agitations, and inconsistent with their calling and profession." Protests on the part of the young men in the ministry are very decided against those in authority. They are not willing to be squelched. A minister of the gospel is a member of society, and a citizen, and as such should have the privilege to voice his sentiments in all that pertains to the welfare of the nation.

AFFLICTIONS A BLESSING.

A. A. C.

Cannot we prove the truth of the above words and feel that though the chastening for the present may be grievous, nevertheless, afterward, it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby? So with this thought in view we learn to trust God's over-ruling hand and to know that "he doeth all things well."

How true that the deepest joy comes to those who have drank deepest of the cup of sorrow; and as every heart has its own sorrow, so it has its own joy. But amidst it all we can look up and feel that "God is our refuge and strength—a very present help in trouble." Above the afflictions of life we hear the inviting voice, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Looking to the author of these words, and to the "heavenly city," whose builder and maker is God, we certainly shall grow stronger and better fitted for the service of Christ here, and our lives made purer for the eternal home beyond. Who has not felt that the afflictions of life have brought them nearer to God and led them to seek less the pleasures of this world and more of the world to come? When we are made to see and realize the truth that "all things work together for good to those that love God," then shall we repeat those words, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him." We all need the conflicts and shadows of life in order that we might look for light and peace. So may we thank God for our shadows, and look up above the darkest cloud and feel that it is the prelude to a brighter day of peace and endless happiness. All through God's "holy word" light is the source of life; and in making this light our guide, we shall not fear the shadows of life, "for God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." May the light of God's presence so illumine our pathway and be reflected in our lives to such an extent that others, seeing it, may be led to glorify Christ. It has been said, "Longest is that existence which, though brief, has shone for God, and left in legacy a trail of holy light." By having each day filled with acts and words for Christ, we are not only laying up treasures in heaven, but fulfilling the injunction, "to do good, and to communicate, forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." It

is only by our works and labor of love that God will acknowledge us as his followers. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." God has not a place for an indolent one in his vineyard; it is toil that prepares for rest. "Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest." By our fruits we are known; when the blossom falls it is an onward step in nature. So when lives of promise fall, it is the messenger of immortal growth. Gone are the flowers, yet the fruit remains. We cannot feel that our loved ones are lost when God calls them after a life of work in his service, but think of them as gone home to enjoy the reward of their labors. So when God sees fit to afflict us, may we count it a blessing that "our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Some one has said:

"God means every man to be happy be sure; He sends us no sorrows that have not some cure; Our duty down here is to do, not to know; Live as though life were earnest, and life will be so."

May we value more highly the worth of passing under the "rod of chastisement," although we may not always have it revealed why such should come to us, yet

"Some time we'll understand."

BUILDERS.

H. MURRAY.

"Building up yourselves in your most holy faith" is the imperative command of one who speaks with authority. Those to whom the apostle was writing, although already Christians, needed building up. We learn from this that salvation means progress, that to be saved from our past sins does not include our present salvation. Paul tells us that "the word of the cross is to them that are perishing foolishness; but unto us which are being saved it is the power of God." I Cor. i. 18; R. V.

Many like passages show us that our salvation depends upon the progress of building. The lesson that we learn from our Saviour agrees with this. "Hearing and doing" these sayings of his will constitute us wise builders. We are all builders. The wisdom and folly, salvation or condemnation, is seen from what we build and upon what we build. Good actions and a good foundation will secure to us salvation. Hearing and doing the will of Christ is the process of building the house or character that will forever stand. It is the house or character we build now that will determine our future salvation, or future heaven. It is not good actions simply, but good character that secures heaven. We build up a heavenly nature and that secures a heavenly place. If our adherence to the will of God does not build up good, pure and holy characters, we cannot be saved in heaven. The new heavens and new earth are for the righteous only. Only he who "doeth righteousness is righteous."

The mistake that many are making is in supposing that God is to reward us so much heaven for so much labor. They will be very careful to maintain their place in the church and attend to the ordinances of the church,

that they may be saved in the great future—more anxious to get into heaven than to get heaven into them; to live in that beautiful home that God is building for them, than to build themselves up and make themselves beautiful for that home. Some of the most strenuous adherents to doctrine are among those who will bite and bark at those who differ from them, and whose nature is as unsuited to the heavenly world as the miser is to a palace. Let us all understand that the great design of Christ's mission on earth was the reconstruction of man, the building up of manhood through the truth; and unless the truth, the doctrine of Christ, has this effect on us, we can never reach heaven. True and noble and honorable men is the want of the world to-day. These must be obtained by building the truth into the nature. God cannot reward us with character. This must be built by constant and proper use of his word. We build our character, and God rewards character with heaven. To do this successfully it is necessary to begin with the young, when their hearts are tender and susceptible to the truth. Some one has said, "If you save a man, you save a soul; but if you save a child, you save a life." Bro. F. D. Power says: "Christ for the first time reveals to the world the significance of childhood. How can any man or woman regard as a trival service the duty of teaching the little ones the way of life!" How careful and thoughtful and anxious we should be to have the young understand the importance of forming and building good characters in their young hearts! Let all be anxious to so act and live that they will be constantly growing in grace and knowledge, and in all that is good.

Correspondence.

WEST GORE LETTER.

In a private letter from Bro. Shaw, he says the church for which he is laboring is engaged in a protracted meeting. There had been six additions up to the time of his writing, and a good prospect for more. His many friends will be glad to hear that the work of the Lord is prospering in his hands. There seems to be a general stir in the way of protracted meetings just now. May we hear of many turning to the Saviour.

I have been interested in the work of the Disciples of Christ in the provinces for over twenty years and I feel safe in saying, that never before, during this period, has there been such a bright outlook for our work. We have more churches, more preachers, and we are getting into a better system of working. This is especially true of the last few years. Now, credit to whom credit is due. I believe that our Home Mission Board has been largely instrumental in bringing this about; and all the churches should hold up the hands of these men who have planned and worked so wisely and earnestly for the success of the work in our parts. I believe