

solemn vows made to be broken, accept present completeness in Christ, this moment by faith, and let Him work in us henceforth both to will and to do of His good pleasure. "Then shall our light rise in obscurity, and our darkness be as the noon-day." Isaiah lviii. 10.

Wherefore, as our New Year's greetings to all our readers, we challenge them, by faith, with us this moment, to obey the call, "Arise, shine; for our light is come; and the glory of the Lord is risen upon us."—Isaiah lx. 1.

### QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Among other correspondence the following letter, lately received, contains questions to be answered that suggest the possibility of others of our readers needing what help our experience may afford in replying to them. Indeed we have met with very many in like case, and are of the opinion they form a numerous class. We have seen many, like ourselves, emancipated from the thralldom, and the result has been permanent gladness and satisfaction of heart to themselves, and increased efficiency in the Master's work. The part of the letter we refer to is as follows:—

"REV. N. BURNS: Dear Friend,—I remember your asking me to write you as to my experience in the higher life, but I have never availed myself of the privilege until now.

But a remark you made at that Sunday afternoon meeting at Mr. Anderson's has encouraged me to speak freely to you. I cannot recall your exact words, but they were to this effect: that in the first years of your experience in Christian holiness you were often perplexed at times not knowing just where you stood. I felt wonderfully helped, for such is my experience, and I thought "Well, if Mr. Burns has had these troubles, I need not despair." But in the past two years I have sometimes thought there was no use my trying to live up to my privilege, for I came so far short of what I think a perfect Christian should be. And yet I have not dared to give up, for now that I see my privileges in Christ Jesus, not to embrace them, is to me a losing of all

religious life. The one supreme desire of my life is to serve God with a perfect heart. I know I love God with all my heart, and yet there is such a lack of power in me. Why is it? Is there something I have not yet received that is in store for me, or am I unfaithful to the light and grace already given? I sometimes think perhaps I am exacting more of myself than I should, and because I fail Satan laughs at me, and tells me I am not on the King's highway. I am naturally of a shrinking, quiet nature, and to do as I see many other holy people doing would seem an impossibility to me. Should this be overcome? As you probably know, I have no help here in this matter, but I have promised God to let my light shine, even though but a feeble light, whenever I have an opportunity. I have found much comfort in telling my Heavenly Father of my failures, for He sees that my heart is sincere in wanting to be right in His sight. I do not know that I have made my case plain to you. But it has been a desire to get help, and to know of a surety just where I am, that I write to you. I know this. My experience has been richer and deeper since that 12th of August, 1884, at Grimsby, but I want to possess all God intends me to receive. My desire is to be useful. That has always been the first thought rather than my own happiness. If I err I think it is in omissions, rather than in commissions. I want to be right."

The first question, it will be noticed, is "I know I love God with all my heart, and yet there is such a lack of power in me. Why is this?"

Now, we have no reason to pronounce upon this as not correctly showing the true experience of the writer. There are some writers and teachers who affirm that loving God supremely implies the possession of all other spiritual blessings. Our reply is that facts are at variance with their teachings. Evidently the knowledge of supreme love to God here is as positive as the knowledge of sins forgiven. Throw doubt on the one, and you undermine confidence in the other. We also can go back in our Christian history, and fully understand these facts from our own personal experience. There are multitudes of Christians to-day who