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to many cases they do not last long. It is rather a start in grace we take at such its author had no doubt cause to is rather a start in grace we take at such seasons than a steady and deep growth in the him that possibly he was too joyful. The growth in grace that comes to us in connection with some sore affliction is and and under the same universal and he detected have of winter. He began to have the good of it prepared for Him before He was horn. For His mother's househinent to the hill country of Judea, with all the wintry gusts that blew down on her far-off home, only made her sing till, like Rutherford, she was restained in the form her far-off home, only made her sing till, like Rutherford, she was restained." And thus we had call me blessed." And thus we know, to our comfort and strength to highly how that, born in mid winter, her her born Son was made perfect through Linds the text should stand in letters of too many cases they do not last long. It big hi, how that, born in find winter, her horn Son was made perfect through grace first strikes its roots. Well, what they winters of banishment from His is the continual presence of sin in the case among the steep states and on the his break of strikes its roots. Well, what strikes house; and how His graces soul but the true winter of the soul amod which the grace that is planted in an out-his break of winter even after strikes deeper the new is. And this great law of the root and grows? Once let a man be home emeyard did not exhaust itself when it had fulfilled itself in Him, it only took new hold of God the good husband sorrow, but to its malignant roots that are man, and went out wider and deeper into twisted found and round and through and ad the earth after its splendid success in through his heart, and that man has that lesus Christ. No other saint of God is winter ever after within him that will so full of this law as Paul is, inless it were secure to him a life-long growth in the most in full of this law as Paul is, unless it were provided that no New Testament man, at my late to our eye, comes so near Christ in this, as in everything else, as Paul ships. We read to night out of one of his best letters, the passage "We glory in tribulation also, knowing that tribulation he is abroad among men and when he is abroad among men and when he is abroad among men and interest the passage in the p worketh patience, and patience experi-ence, and experience hope." And even ling sense of sin, and how that most lames, who does not usually dig so deep to cap such rich clusters as Paul does, even he opens his circular letter to the grace. How he will hear the word of twelve tribes scattered abroad with these grace preached, mixing it no longer with consultatory words. "My Brethren, count fault-inding, as he used to do, but with dail joy when ye fall into divers temptations. The truth is, all the best books of ministry, how he will examine himself the world, Canonical, Apocryphal, Pagan, every day, or, rather, how every day will fopish, Puritan, almost all have been written in winter, or in early spring, and the best schola and comments upon their have been written by men on whose man will be greedy on all the means of the state that the research to the state that the state tha heard of John Calvin, and you have been shamed sometimes to be called a Calvin, ashumed sometimes to be called a Calvin, ashumed sometimes to be called a Calvin, or about waiting on this and that means of grace. He will grow with or without which you move. Did you ever read any the means of grace, but he will be of all the means of grace, but he will be of all more than more delicent in his devices to the means of grace. which you move. Did you ever read any of his own books or of his comments on aim of his Books of Scripture? The hances are all not. I have spoken of the Psalms as having mostly been written in winter or soon after winter. And, as we are among old letters and autobio-alphic confidences to-night, let us open the divin's Preface to the Psalms and read a passage out of him. "The conflicts," he confides in his godly and ingenuous ader, "with which the Lord hath exercised me, have, in no small degree, issisted me in comprehending these divisited me in comprehending these divisited me in comprehending these divisited the same or similar things from the domestic enemies of the Chuich has greatly aided me in understanding David.

British and Farsian greatly aided me in understanding David. In reading the instances of his faith, pa-

In reading the instances of his ratio, partience, it is our, real and integrity, it has, as at ought, drawn from me unnumbered in a letter regarding belief in miracles, cours and sighs that I am so far from does not think much of those ministers does not think much of those ministers. approaching them, but, at the same time, if have beheld in him, as in a mirror, an sample for instruction. Were I to harmonic the various conflicts by which the Limit hath exercised me, and by what if the hath proved me, it would be too if a history. When I was groundlessly if ided by those who should have assemble of so great aird so excellent a person as David. This experience has been of much service in understanding the Psalms, so that in my meditations upon them I did not wander into an unknown region." When you hear anyone speaking contemptuously or censoriously of John Calvin, tell them that you have never read any of his books.

I would like to tell you also how John

I would like to tell you also how John Owen came to understand the 130th I salm, but I must leave that and pass on. But we do not need to go to Aberdeen, nor to remain there, nor to Jerusalem, nor to the hill country of Judea, to seek the good fruits of winter. Everybody knows har our winters are long and bitter in this iny, they are long in departing and they are back long before their time. But do we owe nothing as a people to our hard and inclement climate? My honoured friend, General Booth, honoured, like his Master, with the abuse and persecution of the Pharisees and Sadducees of his hands were very sore, have now all healed, day, told me that he had been offered a Thanks to this valuable mediane. far sunnier land than anything in Scottand or even England, in which to plant one of his reformation colonies, but that he had declined the offer. The climate was too soft, the summers were too long, and the winters were too short for his grace-growing purposes. He did not say it, but I think it quite possible, that if he were offered a deer forest in our own Argyll or Athol, he might accept the offer, and both turn it into a garden and his submerged thousands into hard-working, Sabbath-keeping Highlanders, such that we would not refuse to call them our brethren even though they exhibited a little, to use a heathen allusion, of their corybantic worship occasionally among us as David did before the Ark. Good soldiers of Jesus Christ are made by the endurance of hardness, and they grow better and better soldiers as they endure that divine discipline. Not only does true grace grow best in

winter, but winter is the best season for planting it. "I was to be married and planting it. "I was to be married and she died," was a young Edinburgh man's explanation to me the other day for proposing to sirdown at the Lord's Table. The winter cold that carried off his future Table winter cold that carried off his future Radam's Microbe Killer Cures all Diseases. the seeds of Divine grace; and, no doubt, all down the coming winters, with such short interludes of summers as may be before him in this cold climate, the grace that was planted in winter will grow. It is not a speculation in experimented religion, it is a personal experience that hun-dreds here can testify to, that their Bible, the Sabbath, the Supper, the prayeruneeding, all become so many means of allo grace to them after some great Miliction; greatly sanctified. The death of a bride, the death of a wife, the death of a child; some blow from bride or wife or chik some blow from bride or wife or child worse than death; a lost hope quenched forever; these, and things like these, are needful, as it would seem; to be suffered by most men before they will open their hearts to the grace of God. Before I was afflicted I went setray, but now how I the word."

At the same time, good and necessary as all such wintry experiences are, their good results on us do not last forever. In The Great Blood Purilier.

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more good than anything they have ever taken."

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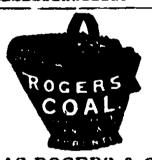
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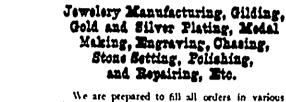
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