

ALL SAINTS.

"A Great Multitude Which No Man Can Number."

What is the flame of their fire, if so I may catch the flame;
What is the strength of their strength, if also I may wax strong?
The flaming fire of their strength is the love of Jesus' Name,
In Whom their death is life, their silence utters a song."

The one hope of our becoming in any way like the Saints, so as to be numbered among them, is not to lose hope, not to be discouraged. The test of our being in the right way is our readiness to keep up the struggle, to begin again, to go on, not only from strength to strength, but from failure to failure.

For progress in the life of service, there must be temptation. It is the lot of all the Saints. But what we must see is that we continue with Christ in our temptations. Our Blessed Lord will one day say to all the Saints, "Ye are they which have continued with Me in my temptation." For in one sense His temptations are carried on in His Body, the Church. In God's wisdom, love and mercy it is arranged that they shall be the course through which the Saints must travel Heavenward.

In the present time except for the consciousness of doing Christ's will, of being on His side, there is very little satisfaction to be derived from any positive goodness to which we can attain. We must trust Him utterly; must throw ourselves on His mercy, holiness, faithfulness. He will hold us up continually. What He expects of us is that we shall continue the struggle, endure to the end. We shall do this with the more hope and determination because it is not only for our own sake, that we may be ourselves individually more holy and perfect, but because we must for the Body's sake, and for the testimony to the world, show forth the patience of the Saints.

It is very difficult, and here we find what the Bible says of our-fallen nature, when we try honestly to be good, and to follow after holiness, or when we see in Christ or to some extent in His Saints, what holiness means, what it is to be pure-hearted, to be a peacemaker, to suffer persecution.

It is all beautiful enough to admire at a distance, yet the vision makes it plain that God is for His Saints always alive, always caring for them, holding back the winds of persecution of which the Angels have charge, till the servants of God have been sealed in their foreheads.

This faith and hope in the living God will help us to continue the struggle and to endure in temptation, and this hope will be easier through the life of fellowship with the Saints of God, with