

consolation doth much more abound." You can be "patient in tribulation," because "you are rejoicing in hope." Instead of those continual lamentations over the miseries of life in which the worldly indulge when they are unhappy, and which they cannot silence by levity and vain dissipation, you "comfort one another by your mutual faith:" you stir up one another "to lift up your heads because your redemption draweth nigh." When the world says, with an accent of despair, *AM* is lost, you say with the apostle, "we faint not; we are always confident; for we walk by faith, not by sight." Where the man of the world is ready to become distracted from the number and weight of the afflictions which press upon him or threaten him, the Lord places on your head the "helmet of salvation," and you can say with David, "The Lord hath covered my head in the day of battle." In fine, when you have come to the moment when the hopes of the worldling "go down with him to the bars of the pit, and rest together with him in the dust;" instead of losing your hope, it is then you realize it; it is then your hope increases and kindles—you lay hold on eternal life, and closing your eyes upon the vanity of this world, you open them to behold that which you hoped for here, and which you then obtain, because you "patiently waited for it." Oh, "happy," then, "is the man that trusteth in the Lord."

May the Lord increase in us this blessed hope. This should be the constant subject of our prayers. Methinks, my brethren, that the more I see what we have to expect here below in the way of trials and conflicts with the world and the flesh; the more I discern the near approach of those "last times" predicted in the word of God—those times of great tribulation and great conflict with Satan, who is "come down, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time;" the more I see the storm gathering in the distance; the more that "wars and rumours of wars, and earthquakes in divers places," and all the other signs of the times reach my ears, like the sullen and fearful noises which betoken the coming tempest, and summon us to prepare; for it,—methinks, I say, the more do I feel pressed to invite you as well as myself, to take advantage of the time which remains to strengthen our confidence in the Lord. When the sky is becoming red and lowering, and the tempest threatens; when the eagles are gathering together to the prey; when the chastisements of God are ready to be poured out upon the carcass of Christianity, in the bosom of which lives the infidelity of nations calling themselves Christian; this is the moment to hearken to the voice of Jesus, who

is our "refuge from the storm," and who would "gather us together even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings." This is the moment to see that we be rooted and grounded in him, that in the day of trial we may be like the house against which "the floods came, and the rain descended, and the winds blew, and it fell not, because it was founded upon a rock." May our hearts be strong, resting upon the Almighty; then we may advance, so to speak, with our eyes shut, having our hand clasped in that of our *God*. If passing through obscure path-ways, where we see not the end, we are sometimes tempted to ask him, like a child afraid in the dark, my father, where art thou going, and whither art thou leading me? The voice of his love will answer us, "Be not afraid, neither be discouraged; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest," Jos. i. 9. "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, and obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God."—Isa. l. 10.

I conclude, by praying with the apostle,—"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." I would recommend you to read the eighty-first Psalm, that you may be cheered by the promises of protection in times of affliction, which are there made to those that trust in the Lord, and love him with sincerity."

#### BENEVOLENCE.

MR. EDITOR,—A letter appeared in the November number, on Benevolence, which should be read attentively by *all parents*, and I think should have been followed up by a series of papers on the same subject. The benevolence of Christians in the present day must greatly increase, before it will bear any thing like a comparison with that displayed by the primitive Christians of Macedonia. And surely no good reason can be assigned why our's should fall so far short of their's; nor do I suppose it is expected by the Great head of the Church that it should surpass it. If you can find room in your periodical for the few following remarks on this Divinely approved instance of Christian liberality, they are at your service.