

light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.' 2 Cor. 4; 17-18.—J. W. NEWTON.

"HOW GRAND IT IS TO BE
SAVED."

Such was the glad and free outburst of a young heart to which Christ was evidently precious. It came spontaneously, and was the rich overflow of a soul that was more than full.

'How long have you been saved?' I asked.

'About five or six years,' he replied.

Sufficient time, thought I, for a fair trial of his faith.

'Have you any doubts or fears?'

'I had at first,' he said.

'And how did you overcome them?'

'By faith in Christ, and then occupation with Him.'

'Quite right,' I replied; and the whole story was told.

Now, it is most cheering to meet such a case—one that gives a reason for his hope, and makes you feel that he knows what he is about.

What struck me most was the last three words, 'occupation with Him,' for they let me into the secret of his appreciation of salvation. None can speak in glad-some terms or with thankful heart of the grandeur of salvation except they are maintained in hap-

py intercourse with Christ. When heavenly streams fail to flow into the heart, then sad leanness inevitably follows. It is just in proportion as we walk with God that the freshness of His grace and love fills our hearts. The cares of the world do not canker them, the thorns do not choke, nor the "little foxes" spoil. Care is cast upon Him, thorns are rooted up, and foxes driven away. "Occupation with Him" is the true preventative, the blessed panacea for all the evils of the spiritual life. It is the divine provision and safeguard, the haven from storm, health from sickness, sunshine from cloud and shade and gloom. Blessed resource, and always within reach!

But this "occupation" is not legal effort, nor monkish toil. It is not dreary servitude, nor the work of a "hired servant"—so much labour for so much bread. Neither is it a dreamy sentimentalism, without nerve or bone or muscle. It is bright, active, hearty companionship. It links you in sympathy with Christ in glory; it brings you into His sphere of interest; it elevates you above the monotony of earthly things; it calls for self-denial, but it points to the reward; it detaches from many an old association, but it places you in the centre of others, purer, nobler, and more enduring. The Master said to His trusted servants, "Occupy till I come" or, as other wise translated, "Trade while I am coming." Now, this trading implies anything but idleness. You are entrusted with your Master's money, and He expects the same with interest. What a