

perfect, or complete, and not fragmentary either in provision, proffer, or bestowment. It is offered to us in its entirety, and not upon the instalment plan. Few men, however, have the capacity to understand all that is involved either in Christian life or character, especially before they have entered upon it; hence most men commence and *long continue* on too low a grade; failing to comprehend, failing to grasp, and consequently failing to enjoy the fulness of their present inheritance in Christ. There is bread enough, but they feed on crumbs; water enough, but they sip it in drops; light enough, but they grovel with half closed eyes in a dim twilight; life enough, but they remain constitutionally feeble. They do not, perhaps, perpetrate known and overt acts of transgression, such as to bring serious condemnation, or perhaps their consciences are not

"Quick as the apple of an eye,
The slightest touch of sin to feel."

hence they claim to be living in a justified state, while far below the normal mark and longing for something better. At length, peradventure, under some special awakening, they discover their low ground of character and experience, and are called upon to come up higher. They are induced to forsake their previous sluggish ways, renew their consecration to God, plume the wings of their faith for a higher flight, and the result is that they are lifted, as it were, to the third heaven of enjoyment and hope, and call it, according to their conventional vocabulary, the second blessing. The fact is, however, that they have nothing now but what they might have had from the beginning had they been able and willing to take it in; nor have they anything yet but may be augmented by successive up-mountings by faith in the future. But this "hop-toad," "leap-frog" method of ascent is the practical and not the theoretical aspect of the redemptive scheme. In other words, it is not God's plan; it is only the human outworking of the divine plan. "The path of the just is as a shining light," steadily increasing, or "shining more and more unto the perfect day." This is the divine plan. The path of the just is like a lantern, always flickering, generally burning dim, in need either of oil or snuffing, or both, and sometimes going entirely out. This is the ordinary human outworking of the