

sion of all the blessings of the new covenant which are this moment made possible to you; and does the blessed Holy Spirit testify in your heart that you walk in them, worthy of God, unto all pleasing?

If this latter is not your experience, we beseech you throw not away your former experience, but rather add to it all these things, that you may not be comparatively barren and unfruitful in the knowledge of God, for all the fulness of God is yours by right of heritage.

PRESS THE BATTLE.

BY THE REV. A. J. JARRELL.

“Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward.” This is a standing order to the whole Church-militant. Nothing ever nullifies it—nothing ever modifies it—God never revokes it. No matter what is in front, no matter what is on the right hand or on the left, no matter who is in the rear, the never-ceasing command of God is: “Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward.” No helplessness of our own, and no strength of our foes, can ever justify us in remaining still. Our almighty strength lies in pressing the battle. The first battle I was in, we barely had men enough for a decent skirmish-line. But the bold line, thin as it was, pressed forward through “leaden death and iron hail,” right into a solid army four lines deep. On they pushed, until less than three thousand men routed more than five times their number. Our only hope was in an irresistible advance. The case is far stronger here. We have never had any other order but “Forward!” There is absolutely no limit to our resources while on the advance. There is no conception of our weakness while lying still. Press the battle—press it all along the line—right, left, centre, flank, and rear. For our army cannot move in any other way than a solid square. The enemy is all around us. Forward means in every direction with us—so we are pressing the foe. In this mighty work we shall need every Christian virtue. But there

are three that are to us what the “helmet, sword, and shield” were to the ancient warrior.

I. We shall need faith in God. Not one jot more faith in ourselves do we need. Self-confidence may do for an earthly warrior; but it is a deadly blight—a loathsome leprosy—in a soldier of Christ. What we need is faith in God. Roll all the stress over on the mighty arm of God. That arm is our defence, and our only defence; it is our strength, and our only strength; it is the thundering legion that is to crush the ranks of our enemies, and we have never had any other legion promised us. We compass the city, blow the rams’ heads, and shout at the given signal; but it is the arm of the Lord that tears down the walls. Faith in God, as “Captain of the host,” is what we need: faith, that in every battle, however great or small, He will be with us in person to lead us and crown us; faith, that however many and strong our foes may be, “they that are for us will be more than they that are against us; faith, that in every case victory is sure; not because we are many or few; not because we are true or tried; but because He leads us. With this faith, “one can chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight,” because God does the chasing. And, let us remember, it is a peculiar faith that can do this. It is the faith of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. It must become “the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen,” or ever it can do these mighty works. It must be able, like Abraham, to look for a city out of sight. It must be able, like Joseph, to look across the bloody chasm of two hundred years’ bondage, and see the children of Israel going up out of bondage into the land of promise. It must be able, like Moses, to see Him who is invisible. This faith subdues kingdoms, works righteousness, obtains promises, stops the mouths of lions, quenches the violence of fire, escapes the edge of the sword, out of weakness is made strong, waxes valiant in fight, puts to flight the armies of the aliens, Faith like this, and such alone, can secure universal triumph. “Wherefore did ye doubt, O ye of little faith?”