

THE GREAT GIVER.

God claims and deserves our first and loftiest thought, our purest and most intense affection. The measureless fields and the unfathomed abysses of space are all ablaze with His glory. And shall we not worship Him? Shall we not sound forth His praise to the ends of the earth? His will is the sole law which suns and systems obey as they move in their orderly march upon the fields of immensity from age to age. And shall we set up our will against His? Shall we enter into conflict with Him who is the source of all power, and from whose heart of infinite love flow forth waves of blessing to every creature in the universe?

There is no madness so extreme, no blindness so dark and terrible and debasing, as that of the man who will not see the witness of God in His wondrous works. Every faculty of our being, every means of existence and happiness, every comfort and blessing of life, comes from God. And shall we take the gift and yet deny the Giver?

God's creative power has called into existence every ray of light that shines and every system of worlds that rolls in immensity. The Almighty has given life to the smallest insect and to the mightiest archangel. Creatures so minute that thousands sport in the drop of water, suns so vast that their light is a thousand times greater than our noon-day, are all held, moment by moment, in God's hand. And shall we, frail children of the dust as we are, crushed before the moth, shall we entertain the thought of living without God?

Dr. Guthrie in describing a wreck and the launching of a life boat to save

the drowning crew, presented the scene so vivid that a young naval officer in front of the gallery, who was listening with wrapt attention, sprang to his feet and began to take off his coat in order to man the life boat, and was only recalled to what he was doing by his mother pulling his coat and drawing him to his seat.

OBEDY GOD ALWAYS.

How difficult it is for the natural heart to realize, or believe, that it is for its own good always to obey God in everything. We are strongly inclined to think that obedience to our own conceptions of what is right and proper, is good for us—indeed, is really best for us. There are some things which God commands us to do that we readily assent to, as being for our good. But there are other things which we hesitate to accept as being essential to our good. We choose that which seems to promise us good, and those things which appear inconvenient and unnecessary we discard. Obedience to some of God's commands appears to involve too much trouble to be for our certain good.

It may lead us to a good deal of heavy cross-bearing and painful peril and deep disappointment and immense personal discomfort: so we demur and debate the chances of possible good to ourselves. But our thoughts and ways are always wrong, and, therefore productive of harm to us, if they do not strictly conform to the thoughts and ways of God. There is no safety outside of following the Word of God.

Christian, in Christ you will find all you want to keep your heart from the