

not cease. My prayer shall still be in your affliction, my thanksgiving in your prosperity. With solicitude I look forward to your various and weary progress heaven-ward. Trials temporal, and spiritual, lie before every one of you, that are the children of God. If you would take the experience of one who has made larger trial of the divine goodness since he last addressed you than ever, 'Trust in the Lord. O Israel! trust thou in the Lord; he is their help and their shield.' 'It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in princes.' With Christ in the vessel, fear not but you shall outride the storm, and tho' he may seem to sleep, 'his heart waketh'—and when best, he will show his command over the elements of nature, as well as the dominions of mind. If he think it best to conduct you thro' affliction, he can make your trials, like the darkness of night, which, while it hides this world from our vision, discovers to our view others, till then unseen. Above all things, strive for greater attainments in piety. God will be your very present help, if you steadfastly aim at the perfection of your sanctification, and the enjoyment of those unclaimed rights, which lie sealed with the Redeemer's blood. The object is practicable. A higher standard is attainable, 'for it is *God* that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.'—Shall sloth prevent? 'What, can ye not watch one hour' for the attainment of that for which your Saviour agonised? Your very *temporal* happiness is involved in the decision of this question. The men of this world may have a portion here, but the sons of God, the legitimate heirs of heaven, will not be allowed the same satisfaction in the pleasures of sin. If they will not walk in the light of God's countenance, this earth shall be to them shrouded with desolation. Why should you shrink from a "closer walk with God?" What iniquity have you found in him? Has he been "a wilderness unto Israel—a land of darkness?"