

ment of effecting his death. Some would have pleaded hard to be spared this part of the trial, and would have considered the sacrifice sufficiently dreadful in being required to yield *such* a victim; but Abraham stipulated for no conditions. When once he knew what was demanded, he immediately endeavoured to comply: What a noble lesson this, for many a christian parent, when called upon to stand at the bedside of a beloved child and soothe the anguish of the dying hour! My brethren, if ever that trial falls to your lot, let this case of the patriarch afford you fortitude and courage. *Your* case, dreadful as it may prove, will never be what *his* must have become, had he actually been permitted to slay his son "for a burnt offering." And yet, when he set out for "the land of Moriah," he had to prepare his mind to witness the awful death-throes of his beloved son—that promising youth, whose life he doubtless expected would be spared to comfort his declining years! Severe as the trial must be, to watch the sufferings of those we love, yet how much more so would it have been the case with Abraham, who knew that the dying pains and struggles of his only son were to be caused by his own—a *father's*—hand!

No greater test was required to prove the sincerity of Abraham's faith. He passed that dread ordeal so nobly, that he at once received the commendation of his God. "And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me." (Gen. 22 c. 11 12 v.)

And here, I think, we may very properly close this interesting subject; for in this, the most affecting part of the patriarch's history, we have his full character beautifully displayed. Would that his noble disposition were more often emulated! What advances in true faith and piety would be constantly effected, if christians aimed at living as near to God as did Abraham! He was always ready to obey his

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