

Practical Papers.

THE HIGHER CHRISTIAN LIFE.

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PART II.—HOW ATTAINED.

CHAPTER IV.—BY WAYS (*Continued.*)



HERE are those who have tried nearly every by-way of them all—run each out in turn to the bitter end of disappointment, before finally going to Jesus as *the way*. One such would give us a complete chart of them all in the single sketch of his own blunderings. Such an one is at hand.

THE PASTOR.

He is no blunderer either, in other matters. Few more careful, or wise, or discreet, than he. Abundant success in his pastoral work shews that. And yet he calls himself,—as we shall have occasion to see in the end, in view of the long succession of blunders he made in his efforts to learn the way of sanctification experimentally,—a fool. How and when and where he was convinced, is not at all essential to our chart. Possibly it may have been in connexion with a very delightful work amongst the students of another of our theological seminaries. Such a work there was, and many of the young gentlemen came to see and understand the way of sanctification by faith, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and the pastor knew much of this work and commended it publicly. It would be a glorious thing if, from year to year, each and all of our schools of the prophets could be baptised in this way.

Possibly it was the conscientious leanness of his own soul which made him hunger and thirst for the precious things of God. Not that he was not a devoted Christian and minister. There was no apparent lack of this kind. Indeed he was far more than most others a faithful, earnest, tender, thorough pastor and preacher, and for this very reason he would be the more likely to feel deeply his own want of this very experience of the way of sanctification.