

cedure was similar to that of the people themselves, when, thirty-eight years before, they doubted the propriety of entering the promised land. They then set up their opinion against the declared, evident course chosen by God; and so, Moses now had set up his private opinion against the declared methods by which God intended to rule His people.

For these reasons, no doubt, the chastisement which came on Moses was *public*,—within the observation of the people—and was exactly the same in its form as that which fell upon the men who believed in their own wisdom and that of the cowardly spies, rather than in the wisdom of their God. Moses was doomed never to set foot on the blessed soil of the promised land. He must die in the alien's country. The goal of all his earthly labours must not be attained.

Never, perhaps, was there a more conspicuous instance of the impartiality of Divine justice, and the tremendous responsibility attaching to the feelings and conduct of holy public men. Thus rigorously does God mark with disapprobation the public sins of His chosen servants, and thereby lend emphasis to the caution, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

The principles of Divine procedure with respect to sin, are the same in all time, though the special mode of chastisement may be born of shifting circumstances. It is true of us in the nineteenth century, that whatever the value of our past services, however noble and well sustained our public and private character, yet, if in an evil hour of unwatchfulness, we fall into a sin that dishonours God in the eyes of men, we shall, as a consequence, fail to do in His service in days to come, what, but for this unfortunate event, we should have been permitted to do. David was a good man on the whole, but there were blemishes in his character which, besides bringing bitterness to his own soul, weakened his influence over others and rendered him an unfit person to bear the honour of building the temple of the Lord. There is for us a promised land of rich flowing success in spiritual work. There are many causes outside ourselves, barring our entrance on that desired inheritance. Disease, failing powers, withdrawn sympathy and co-operation, and unsinful errors of judgment, may compel us to come short of our longed-for goal. But transgression, robbing us of our moral power, and dishonouring God before others, certainly must mar and lessen the desired success of spiritual work, whether in church school, or home; though, through the good mercy of God, those who thus suffer for their sins, may still press on for a while with the host of God, and draw from the deep griefs of their own experience lessons of wisdom that shall be helpful to less wary travellers towards the promised land.

'HELP YOURSELF.'

Less than half a century ago, one of our great Canadian forests had remained in undisturbed possession of the Moose and Deer, and Wolves and Wild-cats, as its only inhabitants. For ought we know, their claim might have dated back to the days of Noah, but it had been decreed that 'this parcel of ground' should furnish homes for the children of men. A number of hardy, and hard working farmers had taken their families into this 'wilderness'; each man had selected his 'lot,' the men had helped each other to roll up the logs, split, and lay the long shingles, which constituted the roof, and closed the gables of their log-houses. Then each man had 'lifted up his axe upon the thick trees,' to make an 'opening' where he, and his children after him might have a home of their own. Into that new settlement I made my way as a missionary, on horse-back—the stumps were thick enough about the dwellings, and the forest trees near at hand on every side, but the men working with a will to extend improvements.

At one of these houses I had alighted, and received a kindly welcome from the good woman within, and as noon was approaching, a kind and even urgent invitation to remain for dinner was not unwelcome to a jaded man, or to his horse.

The good specimen of a farmer's wife proceeded to make ready a substantial,