

God, and He has not changed. The same still to us as He was to them in His loving kindness and tender mercies: we can truly say, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation."

A quaint old divine sees in this verse a four-fold gradation of divine bounty. 1st, benefits; 2nd, an exaggeration of beneficence, "a load of benefits;" 3rd, a two-fold exaggeration of beneficence, a "daily load of benefits;" 4th, a three-fold exaggeration of beneficence inasmuch as the subjects are unworthy, "who daily loadeth us with benefits."

There are two classes of benefits with which the Lord, the God of our Salvation, is daily loading us and for which we should bless His name. They are 1st, our Temporal benefits, and 2nd, our Spiritual benefits.

I.

Under the head of Temporal benefits I would put 1st. Our very existence. I am well aware that there are men who are ready to curse the day on which they were born; but I feel sure there are none such here to-day. One of two reasons has driven these men to such a desperate state of mind—(1), Either they have allowed themselves to become the inveterate slaves of some form of sin, or (2), else they have attempted to fight life's battles in their own strength and have not taken the Lord as their Guide and Counsellor. No wonder such men feel existence to be a burden. The true Christian temperament should be one of buoyancy. "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice," is a Scriptural injunction to God's people. The birds of the air, and the beasts of the field, and the fish in our rivers fairly revel with life; and why should not we? God never made any man to be miserable. If we are miserable it is our own fault and not God's. "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." No

other being on earth was made for such a high and lofty purpose as man.

"When I look up unto the heavens
Which Thine own fingers framed,
Unto the moon and to the stars
Which were by Thee ordained,

Then say I, what is man that he remembered is by Thee,
Or what the son of man, that Thou so kind to him shouldst be;
For Thou a little lower hast him than the angels made,
With glory and with dignity thou crowned hast his head."

Blessed be the Lord, even the God of our salvation, for existence.

2nd. Next to existence I would put Preservation. Where is the Christian who, when he looks back over his past life, does not see that he has reason to be profoundly thankful for the care God has had over him. Think of the hundred and one diseases and ailments to which our frail bodies are subject, and of the accidents to which we have been daily exposed, and the wonder is that we have attained to our present age at all. In every community there are to be found men and women who have been brought to the very brink of the grave, but God in His mercy both to them and to those depending on them, has spared them. Think too, of the tendency to sin which is so strong within us by nature, and of the temptations to which we have been exposed, and the wonder is that we have not been guilty of the most abominable crimes, that we are not sunk in misery and vice. By the grace of God we are what we are. Think of the poverty that's in the world. Very few of us are what the world would call rich men, but we are infinitely better off than millions of our fellow-creatures. We have more or less cozy homes; we are more or less comfortably clad, and we do not need to live on "hunger bread," or scrape among refuse, or beg from door to door for a