

more of God, to be nearer God, to be more humbled before him, to be filled with him, and to see his glory manifested in the conversion of sinners.

God in his dealings with his children seeks to bring them nearer to him, so that they may be more under the power of his love, and better fitted to labour in his cause. This is the proper explanation to give of the afflictions and trials, through which God causes his people to pass. And, believer, you should seek, that the end which God contemplates in all his dealings with you, may be accomplished. Your soul should say,

"Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer to thee,
E'en though it be a cross
That raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God, to thee,
Nearer to thee."

If such, O believer, is your soul's intensest longing, then you will, like the Psalmist, "seek God," you will read his word and meditate thereon, you will delight in prayer, in the worship of God, either socially or publicly, and in religious intercourse with God's people, and you will long to be with God in heaven, and enjoy him as your everlasting portion.

Sinner, thirsting for happiness, and madly attempting to attain to it in the world, cease thy mad attempt. Come, as a sinner, to Jesus, the sinner-receiver, and he will give thee rest.

GOD'S LONG-SUFFERING A WONDERFUL DISPLAY OF HIS POWER.—The amazing display of God's power is that of power over himself. This has been exhibited from the first moment of our apostacy. When penalty had been incurred, and God forbore to strike, then was the grandest demonstration of omnipotence. If I would figure to myself Almightyness, creation is as nothing to me when compared with long-suffering. Worlds upon worlds, systems upon systems, a syllable peopling immensity, and causing the untravelled solitude to teem with life, all this conveys to me no such august idea of omnipotence, as God's bearing with sinners, and not striking down the rebellious. We say again, that long-suffering is God's power over Himself; it is restraint on his own attributes,—and that matter is at his disposal, this is nothing; that spirit is at his disposal, this is nothing; but that he can be insulted,