

THE PULPIT.

GOD'S RICH SUPPLY.

BY DR. CUYLER.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus"—Phil. iv. 19

Human nature is a mass of wants. The earliest cry of infancy means want of food, or sleep, or relief from pain. The silent appeal of old age in its arm-chair is for a daily supply of daily necessities. Columns of our daily journals are filled with the catalogues of "wants." The chief purpose of all trade, manufactures and commerce is to supply the various needs of humanity; and God's grandest ministration of love is to supply the endless necessities of his dependent children.

What a glorious promise that is which Paul records in his letter to the generous Philippians. They had been kind to him, and he writes back to them: "My God will supply all your need according to his riches in glory, by Christ Jesus." That is a divine promise, made to be kept. I can put that away where I put my U. S. bonds, with a comfortable certainty of no defalcation. This passage is one of the "government securities" of Heaven. It is my God who issues the promise; my own personal Father. He does not bind himself to give me all I may lust after; no, not even all I may pray for. Many of my wants are purely artificial and born of selfishness. I may crave wealth; and He may see that my soul would be richer if I were poor. I may ask for some promotion; and He may know that my road to holiness lies through a valley of humiliation and disappointment. So He only agrees to give me what as an immortal being I need, which is a very different thing from what I may be craving.

Let us observe, too, on what a munificent scale our God supplies our necessities. He gives "according to his riches." When old John Jacob Astor was once solicited to subscribe to a certain object, the solicitor pointed to his son William's name on the list, as an inducement for him to give. "Ah!" said the shrewd old German, "he can afford to put down his name. He has got a rich father." The poorest widow in her attic, the coarsely-clad missionary in his frontier cabin has this comfort, that their Father has the resources of the universe at his control. Human love is a taper, easily blown out. God's love is the inexhaustible sun, which lavished as much light to-day as it did on Creation's morn. When some people read this text we are looking at, they imagine God pays his children "in glory." So He will in Heaven; but not here. We have not reached that stage yet. The passage signifies "in a glorious way." It is not the substance of the supply, but the method of it. When our God guarantees to provide for his trusting children, He does it after no stingy and scrimping fashion, but He does it gloriously.

Rowland Hill once had a hundred pounds put in his hand for the benefit of a poor minister. He sent the poor man five pounds, and added in his letter: "There will be more to follow." A little while after, he remitted another five pounds, with the same assurance, "More to follow," and so on until the whole hundred had been forwarded. This