

suggested this picture to the royal Psalmist's mind. Spiritually we see here the fearlessness with which the Christian may face the constant perils in which he is placed, and still more death itself; and why? Because there are means of support and protection provided: "Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Because the saints have God's gracious presence with them in their dying moments; not only conducting them, but comforting them when they need most comfort.

What a solace in the hour of death [to know that God takes cognisance of us—that He will rebuke the enemy—that He will guide us with His rod, and sustain us with His staff, if only we trust to Him who is our Saviour and our Friend.

Here, then, is the ground of confidence: "I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me." There is no "evil" in death to the child of God—death cannot separate him from the love of God—it only kills the body, but cannot touch the soul.

Let every believer be assured that it can do him no real harm, since he has *Somebody to lean upon*.

Clinging to Christ.

SAVIOUR, more than life to me,
I am clinging close to Thee;
Let Thy precious blood applied,
Keep me ever near Thy side.

Every day and every hour,
Let me feel Thy cleansing power;
May Thy tender love to me
Bind me closer, Lord, to Thee.

Through this changing world below,
Lead me gently, as I go;
Trusting Thee, I cannot stray,
I can never lose my way.