

less and the indifferent who are not striving to follow Christ, meet with few difficulties. They are not striving to reach any high standard, and therefore do not feel how far short they come. But while this is the case, that the conflict thickens as we give ourselves to the service of the Master with greater zeal and fidelity, this does not discourage the true soldier but only nerves to further effort.

This discipline works out for us new blessings, new strength, new attainments.

The necessity for it is realized, and our faith is strengthened thereby. And the result of it is, that the feeble and the timid are transformed into the strong and steadfast soldiers of the cross, and the joy of victory becomes more constant and more exalted. It is realized that the fight is a "good fight." It is for the mastery over evil in every form, over the devil and over all his agents and agencies. This great servant of God whose words we are considering, entered with all his soul into the conflict and took all the trials and sufferings of it in a manly and heroic spirit. The mission in which he was engaged and the work which was given him to do was in his sight the very highest in which man could engage. The satisfaction which he had in making known the love of God to a perishing world and in leading souls out of darkness into the marvellous light of God, was a work in which the more he did, and the more he suffered, the more zealous he became in it. When he came to look back on his career he did so with the sense of having been engaged in a conflict, which was worthy of all his efforts, and in which he was willing to expend all that he had. Though his efforts may not have accomplished all that he desired, the work which he was engaged in was one in which he had the sympathy and countenance of his Saviour. And when he reflected that his whole efforts since he had come under the power of divine grace, were expended in trying to teach men the way of truth, and to save men from sin and from its in-