

ETERNAL LIFE A GIFT.

(JOHN III.)

HE said, "I must fulfill my vows; must be obedient; must do my duty; and I suppose Christ must do the rest." And mark, this was in order to obtain eternal life. This man, like everybody else, seemed to think he must do something to obtain this favor, but it is not so. Eternal life is the gift of God, and must be received by faith as presented in His word. (Rom. vi. 23). Why should men make such hard terms for themselves when God does not? He had utterly failed in his three self-presented *musts*; positively shut out the desired blessing by his own terms, and had to admit it. Still, he thought he had his part to do, and that Christ had His also to do. How blind he was to the terrible fact that his own part was already only too well done, that he was "condemned already," and that Christ's was a finished work on the cross hundreds of years ago, and that He is now in glory.

He saw his mistake when pointed out, but said, "Then I suppose I must do the best I can, and trust to the end, for this is all I can do." It was still himself and his doing, no thought yet of what Christ has done. He was again told of his utter failure, and that if he could do, or obtain eternal life through his own efforts, then Christ was dead in vain. He finally gave it up, and desired to know what then