

GOD IS LOVE.

BY REV. E. H. EDES.

I SPEAK not poetically or speculatively, but I utter the words of truth and soberness, when I say that the very sufferings and sorrows which so constantly make a part of human condition are, under the guidance of Christianity, and, I would add, under that guidance only, the means of deepening in the heart of the sufferer, and in the very hour of his suffering, the conviction that God is love.

Look at that brightest and purest example of virtue and holiness which the world ever saw, the man Christ Jesus. To him the character of God was revealed as to no other mind. He was in the bosom of the Father, and he stood among men as the manifested presence of Divinity,—“God manifested in the flesh.” Through him comes the true knowledge of God to us. From him may we learn what God is, as we learn by no other medium. And from him, therefore, may we learn the truth that God is love. And we learn it, too, not from the brightness of prosperity, the joy of success; not from those happy circumstances which breathe an atmosphere of gladness around the path of life, and from which this truth would appear to be a natural or inevitable deduction; but we see it shining out from the depths of suffering and anguish. Was not Jesus justly represented as a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief? Did he not endure through the whole course of his ministry a constant baptism of sorrow—despised and rejected by those whom he came to save, persecuted and reviled by those whom he would bless, and finishing a life of unrequitted toil by the tortures of the cross, and the ignominy of a criminal execution?