

it was the proper thing to do; and now to have the prospect, for years ahead, perhaps for the whole of our life, of feeling that parties who had entrusted their money to us could not only not recover the principal, but possibly not even the interest, seemed more than we could possibly endure. So we spent the hours of that day in a hand-to-hand fight concerning doubt as to the very existence of any intelligent oversight on the part of God of our life. Toward the close of the day there came to us the conviction, like a voice communicating with our inner consciousness, in these words: "Some souls shall gain heaven by this severe trial through which I am calling you to pass." This communication we received as from Heaven, and immediately entered into soul-rest concerning the mysteries of this perplexing providence, a rest unbroken during all these years, although keenly appreciating all the sorrow connected with the fierce discipline, a rest, be it here remarked, which in no sense paralyzed our exertions to extricate ourselves from debt.

We need not weary the reader with the comparatively fruitless, though sometimes almost frantic, exertion, we made to be free, until hopeless and exhausted, we gave over the effort and settled down to endure through life this our greatest affliction.

Several years after, when about to close a private academy in the town of Georgetown, seeing all the surroundings pointed to that as the proper ending of our efforts to establish a permanent college there, a similar experience to that almost forgotten one at Milton, was experienced. For whilst at prayer concerning the whole matter, suddenly a conviction came to us that we should remain, and continue the school under certain well defined stipulations.

It was now that the former experience came to us in all its freshness, and connected with itself the financial disaster which speedily followed it. It now seemed to us that all these things dovetailed into the experience now being realized, and that the success or failure of our life hung on the decision to be arrived at. What wonder, then, that we took ample time to investigate thor-

oughly and decide intelligently. After days of prayer and thoughtful examination of the whole subject of divine guidance; after an appeal to Heaven for light and for clear instruction from the Bible with unwearied investigation of the written word, we were forced to the conclusion that it was not only right, but it was eminently wise, "to commit all thy ways to the Lord." Hence, as a result, we abandoned ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the one and only law of life, not as an experiment, but for life, leaving the result, if need be, to be judged of in a future world.

Then we had clear knowledge of the perplexing problem of our financial life. God was leading us into this very experience, and utilizing as discipline the keenest form of trial for this purpose. Now we do not hesitate to connect our failure to follow the Holy Spirit at Milton with the sharp discipline of financial failure.

But, it may be asked, did full, complete obedience to the Spirit secure immediate freedom from debt? By no means. The trial was to be utilized for the benefit of others. But so soon as it was made evident that God could make use of one so oppressed by debt as not to be able to even meet the annual interest, as the apparent leader in this holiness movement, and cause it to overcome all obstacles and secure assured success, then He raised up one whom He could trust with the responsible work of removing the burden "That no flesh should glory in his sight."

When at the approach of the second convention of the Association we began to realize the conspicuous place that the President of the Association was likely to be, we shrank back from it with all the force of our nature. To occupy such a position of prominence and be hopelessly involved in debt, seemed to us to be the height of absurdity, so we spent hours in prayer, asking for the privilege of refusing any office whatever in the Association. It was whilst thus pleading with God that we were clearly made to feel that our own personal salvation depended on our holding our peace and accepting unquestioningly the