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LESSONS FROM AFFLICTION.

A SERMON

BY REV. F. H. LARKIN, B.A.

[The following sermon was occasioned by the death of Mr. Thomas H. Taylor, a most devoted elder of the First Presbyterian Church, Chatham, Ont.]

"We glory in tribulations also."—Rom. 5 : 3.

THIS life of ours is made up of a great variety of experiences. Sometimes it is fairly permeated with the sunshine of joy, and the world seems for the time-being like a veritable garden of delights. At other times the shadows gather over us. The eye is bedimmed with tears, the brow furrowed by care, and life becomes robed in gloom and sorrow. If we had the arrangement of things in our own hands, this would not be the case. If we had the ordering of our own lot, we would secure for ourselves many forms of pleasure which we do not possess, and we would also protect ourselves against much in the way of trial and disappointment that we are called upon to endure. It is almost natural for us to think that if we could only exercise a controlling influence in the disposition of events, we could do much better for ourselves than what has been done.

Now it is certainly true that the facts and occurrences of life oftentimes cause pain and anguish; they frequently run directly counter to our own deepest wishes and inclinations; they are sometimes the very opposite of what we could desire, and may even be so antagonistic to our preferences as to