

ment of unholy, restless desires, and no earnest efforts to overcome them? The righteous God loveth not, but hateth, envy, strife, backbiting, wickedness, covetousness, malice, falsehood, dishonesty, selfishness, ungodliness; and when these are kept, the God of peace is grieved. It is wonderful what an effect this inner peace has on all things around us. It is the mind itself which casts a "garment," or a wedding garment, upon the outer world. We in ourselves rejoice; and the gladness of the world is but an echo from our voice. When we are ill at ease with ourselves, and unhappy in the home of our own heart from a bad conscience, or from a life unfaithful to duty, everything takes a complexion from our spirit, mercies cease to delight, friends are no longer friends, nature loses her beauty, our employments their interest, life itself may at last become intolerable, and death be sought as a refuge near and immediate from what is already hell. But where peace reigns, sunshine spreads all around. While Judas went with his silver pieces to hang himself, He Who was being led to the cross exclaimed, "My peace I leave with you!"

Time would fail me to utter in detail all the precious promises made to the righteous. Is it a blessing to have God as the hearer of prayer? "The righteous cry, and God heareth them." Is deliverance from affliction a reward? "Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivereth them out of them all." Is it good to be held up in time of weakness? "The Lord upholdeth the righteous." Does he desire to be guided in perplexity? "Light is sown for the righteous." "The way of the righteous is made plain." Does he need to be watched at all times? "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous." These blessed promises extend to all he has, and all connected with him. "The house of the righteous shall stand." "The rod of the wicked shall not rest

on the lot of the righteous." "The righteous shall inherit the earth." "The seed of the righteous shall be blessed," nor shall they be begging bread. And what glorious prospects are set before them! "The hope of the righteous shall be gladness." "The righteous shall be at judgment." "The righteous shall go into life eternal." "They shall shine forth as the sun." Seeing, then, the "righteous God loveth righteousness;" we may well exclaim, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my latter end be like his."

Another reward of righteousness is righteousness itself.

"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. In other words, the man who loves good shall be filled. In other words, the man who loves good shall be filled with it. This at once exposes the ignorant and selfish folly that would associate with righteousness only such external rewards as men receive here for doing good, as the phrase is. If men do the state some service, they expect to be rewarded by some favour or honour. Even if men save the lives of others, they expect a reward. And all this system of rewards, which, begun in school, is continued during life to the boy, by way of stimulating him to a right course of action, is very naturally transferred by the unthinking and the ignorant to the government of God; and thus men associate with doing their duty to God and man, with being righteous, some rewards they know not what, but which will probably mark what good people they have been. Yet, after all, there are hints given us in this world of a different and nobler system of rewards. True love seeks only true love in return. No mother would expect to be rewarded by money for loving or saving her child. It would be an insult to her whole being to insinuate that she was not sufficiently