

CANAAN AND THE ARMOUR OF GOD.

(*Read Ephes. vi. 10-20*).

It might seem strange at first sight that in this epistle, where there is the fullest unfolding of the privileges of the children of God, *conflict* should be brought out; but we are often not aware of the character of the conflict from not knowing our privileges. Here it is found we are specially in conflict, and in a conflict that is neither known nor got into until we realize the privileges which *this* epistle specially unfolds.

In Galatians there is conflict, but it is a conflict between flesh and Spirit—the flesh lusting against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; but in Ephesians it is *not* flesh, but spiritual wickedness in high places (or “wicked spirits in the heavenly places” margin). We *have* to overcome flesh, and there is a very close connection between these two conflicts; still they are distinct.

In Ephesians it is a new creation. Christ has ascended up on high—“He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.” So completely has He taken us out of the power of Satan that He can make us the vessels of His service. He has taken us out of the world, and then sent us into it; and if we thus stand associated with Christ (which is the privilege of every Christian, though all do not realize it), we must expect all the conflict associated with the place into which we are brought. In *proportion* as we *realize* that we are the vessels