

THE MERCIFUL AND THEIR BLESSING.

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Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.—*Mat. v, 7.*

Sympathy and compassion towards the suffering and needy may spring from natural affection. The light of revelation may enlarge this affection, or the darkness of infidelity, paganism, or mammonism may diminish or extinguish it. The compassion of men who continue to walk after the course of this world, extends to man's temporal condition; that of men renewed in the spirit of their mind, to his spiritual interests. The merciful who have "obtained mercy" seek to bless with double blessing the fallen and the needy. Wherever mercy is found, true and Christlike, it seeks to restore peace to the soul of man and also to alleviate his physical sufferings. No grace more adorns renewed humanity. Nor can the disciple of Christ more surely make progress than by vividly realizing the mercy God has manifested, and seeking to be "merciful as his Father is merciful."

When Jesus on the Mount spake with authority, and not as the Scribes, sweet words of blessing fell from his lips, dropping as dew upon those who sought good for themselves; sweet, too, were the words of benediction which fell on those who valued life and power as means of blessing others. "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy."

THE MERCY OF THE CHRIST-BLESSED IS NOT MERE CONCERN FOR THE HAPPINESS OF THOSE OF THE SAME NATION OR TRIBE.—Men may be found whose sympathies are thus contracted. They may for instance regard the condition of the white man while they coolly disregard the oppressions and sorrows of the negro; but true mercy knows no distinction of color

or of clime but extends the hand to the suffering, whosoever or wherever they may be, of human kind.

IT KNOWS NO SECT.

There are men, who, when persecution or oppression arise against those who wear the same badge, or are enrolled in the same party with them, are roused to action on their behalf, but yet can look without sympathy on the persecuted or the oppressed who utter not their shibboleth. This is mere love of party, and is not of that true philanthropy that reflects God's love to man. True mercy sorrows at the sufferings of any member of the human family, and has ever joined with it the earnest desire to alleviate or remove them. The merciful cannot look on wrongs unmoved. He has the will, and if he has the power will use it to shelter and defend.

IT IS FORGIVING.

The merciful man will be readily disposed to forbearance, through which peace in communities will be secured—without this disposition there will be confusion and every evil work. Mercy will dispose to forgiveness. The cruel, harsh, and unfeeling, are prone to cherish revenge; while the merciful will be ready to forgive and withhold from inflicting injury.

IT REFLECTS GOD'S MERCY.

"The merciful" in the highest and broadest sense are those who show mercy like God. *Mercy obtained* is their pattern.—Did the Eternal bear with their ignorance, sin, and obstinacy? Did he freely forgive their iniquities? As he has been long-suffering and has "multiplied to pardon,"