

surprised that aged people are so willing to go out of this world. I will tell you the reason. It is not only because of the bright prospects in heaven, but it is because they feel that seventy years of annoyance is enough. They would have lain down in the soft meadows of this world forever, but "God sent the hornet."

My friends, I shall not have preached in vain if I have shown you that the annoyances of life, the small annoyances, may be subservient to your present and eternal advantage. Polycarp was condemned to be burned at the stake. The stake was planted. He was fastened to it, the faggots were placed round about the stake, they were kindled, but, by some strange current of the atmosphere, history tells us, the flames bent outward like the sails of a ship under a strong breeze, and then far above they came together, making a canopy; so that instead of being destroyed by the flames, there he stood in a flame-buoyant bower planted by his persecutors. They had to take his life in another way, by the point of the poinard. And I have to tell you this morning that God can make all the flames of your trial a wall of defense and a canopy for the soul. God is just as willing to fulfill to you as he was to Polycarp the promise, "When thou passest through the fire thou shalt not be burned." In heaven you will acknowledge the fact that you never had one annoyance too many, and through all eternity you will be grateful that in this world the Lord did send the hornet. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." "All things work together for good to those who love God." The Lord sent the sunshine. "The Lord sent the hornet."