

ever stretched out for my good, — I know that, come what will, let the storms of affliction blow upon me ever so rudely, He who said to Paul, in the midst of the tempest, "Fear not!" will magnify His power in my deliverance, will, certainly, make "all things work together" for my best, my eternal welfare? Yes, my dear friends, and we shall soon, very soon, need all that holy confidence, all that assurance of the divine love and protection, which none but the servants of God can experience. It is an easy thing, while life, and health, and prosperity are granted to us, to treat these matters lightly, and view them with indifference; but oh! let us look ahead, my friends, let us look beyond the present moment and the present scene! The present moment is gone while we are talking about it. The present scene will change before we are aware of it. All may be smooth, and calm, and quiet with you now, but what do you do at sea, when all is smooth, and calm, and quiet? Why, you put your rigging to rights, you repair your sails, you set all in order, while you have the opportunity: and why? Because you know very well that the calm will not last for ever, that it cannot last long, and, therefore, you prepare for the next gale, and the next lee shore! My dear friends, I beseech you, "by the mercies of God," to do the same by your souls! However smooth and unruffled may be the ocean of your life now, it cannot always be so. Even in this world, the storms of affliction will come, the billows of trial will beat upon you, the rude blasts of suffering will assail you. It is the common lot of humanity, and you cannot