

"THE COMPASS AT HIGH MAST."

Crossing the ocean you have noticed, perhaps, three compasses, one "fore," another "aft," and a third "at high mast."

Speaking to the quarter-master as to the need for all these, he replied "the two lower ones, while serving a purpose, are not to be *wholly* relied on, because of their being surrounded by iron and other metals which diverted the needle from its true action of turning to the pole. The third, however, '*aloft*,' is always true; this is the one we always depend upon and by it regulate the two lower ones—it being far above the range of counter influences."

For the people of God, how significant the lesson—much we have that will serve to help us on our heavenward journey in the *ministry* of those who amongst us may answer to the "fore" compass, and much also in the *fellowship* of others who may come in as the "aft" one, but to steer an even, steady course, such as God would have His people, we must turn our eyes "*aloft*" to the compass at high mast. Let us apply it further: How dear to us often are those whom God has used in His service for our blessing, and while He would have us value them "highly in love for their *work's* sake," yet His words are: "Whose FAITH follow, considering the *end* of their conversation: *Jesus Christ*, the same yesterday, to-day, and forever;" or in the words of our "compass" lesson, be turned by the lower ones to look aloft. Again, while it may be truly part of the confession of our faith "I believe in the *communion* of saints," yet dear as it may also be to us, it will not serve to steer our course by, for even a Peter may lead his brother Barnabas astray, or a John Mark turn him from the heavenward course to sail to Cyprus—the place of nature's ties and home attachments.

"Looking off unto *Jesus*," can be the only true unfailing regulator of our pathway here; and like the compass at the mast-head, so is He for us at the right hand of God "As we have *received* Christ Jesus the Lord," so are we to "*walk in Him*"—regulate all by Him—set Him alway before our faces, and thus shall we "find Him at our right hands" that we "may not be *moved*" Whoever then we may be right in "receiving with all gladness," or "to hold in reputation," there is but *One* to rejoice in,—the Lord Himself; and even where "fellowship with saints" may be interrupted and broken, our fellowship with Him may still abide. B.C.G.