

released and the very last reserve called forth. The poet speaks about memory as that faculty which "steals fires from the fountains of the past to glorify the present." Hope differs only in that it steals its fires from the fountains of the future. It lifts the curtain and shows us the new Jerusalem rising beyond the doubts and fears of time.

Hopefulness is contagious. The invincible hopefulness of Paul roused the spirits of all the others. Had he given expression to pessimism, the nervousness of all on board would have been greatly increased. In this time of national danger when the winds are straining at the shrouds of empire, it is the duty of all to cultivate hope, to inspire hope in others, for while hope springs eternal in the human breast, there can be no defeat.

Christ is the ground of all our hopes. Without faith in something or somebody there

can be no hope. St. Paul hoped when the others despaired, because he had a hopeful conception of life to fall back upon. One time Carlyle and Bishop Wilberforce were walking together and speaking of the death of a mutual friend. "Bishop," said Carlyle, suddenly, "have you a creed?" "Yes," was the answer of the other, "and the older I grow, the firmer that creed becomes under my feet. There is only one thing that staggers me." "What is that?" said Carlyle. "The slow progress that creed seems to make in the world." Carlyle remained silent for a moment and then said, slowly and seriously, "Ah, but if you have a creed, you can afford to wait." Yes, if we have a creed we can sing our songs of expectation marching to the promised land. He will bring it to pass.

THE LESSON GRADED

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of Bible Classes

The following outline may guide the discussion after the lesson facts have been brought out:

1. *Foundation building.* Read 2 Cor. 11: 23-27. Recall some of the privations which Paul's labors involved. The incident related in this lesson is only one of the many perils through which Paul passed. Like that of David Livingstone, his life plan seemed to court dangers. But his life plan was formed not by a love of adventure and a reckless attitude to life, but by the desire to lay the foundations of a Christian organization. And just as the foundations of our great buildings must be laid by men who work deep down out of sight in the mire, so, laying the foundations of a great Christian work, involves much that cannot be called easy and pleasant. It is often more comfortable to resign it to others and to stay at home. Paul's experiences may be used to fire those Christian workers or slackers who are tempted to resign Christian work because they meet, as every earnest laborer in the vineyard has met, little sympathy, few helpers and arduous toil. Paul knew that in all these things he

was only measuring up to the stature of his master. Recall the work of MacKay of Formosa.

2. *A voice in the tempest.* An artist painted a picture of a sea in the fury of a storm and in the foreground he portrayed a face on which was stamped the agonies of terror. Then he painted a companion picture of the same sea in the same storm, but in the foreground he sketched a rock, in the cleft of which a dove was brooding on its nest. The latter picture represents Christian peace. The word of God, the promises of Jesus, the prophecy of our own past, and the comfort of the presence of the master, are sources of peace in tempestuous days. Refer to Gordon's calm faith during the siege of Khartoum. What part has pessimism in the life of a Christian? Eleanor Porter's book, "Pollyanna," may suggest some wholesome lessons. Have the class read Ps. 46: 1-3; Ps. 37: 5.

3. *Faith and practice.* Note that the divine promise did not cause Paul to relinquish all reasonable efforts to save the ship. The old proverb, "the Lord helps those who help themselves," is a homely way of stating the truth that God works with us only to supply what our own efforts cannot effect. New visions come with new needs. The world will not be saved nor any great reform