

truthfulness, and in a manner exceeding all expectation, are fulfilled the words of this verse learnt by our children :—

"The path of vice at first is smooth,
A broad way through fair meadows,
But leaeth soon to danger,
Then ends in night and bitter woe!"

THE NARROW WAY.

The gate is so narrow that no burden can be taken in. Inside the gate is the fountain of living waters at the foot of Calvary. A church offers a friendly sanctuary. The narrow way now begins. There are but few on the road, and the steep path presents but few inducements to travel it. But having fairly entered, and passed the first difficulties, the way becomes easier and the attractions greater. We see men engaged in feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, entertaining strangers, clothing the naked, visiting and attending the sick, caring for orphans.

If there be still HIGHER MOUNTAINS to climb and new difficulties to overcome, yet he draws nearer the glorious goal, and can of a truth say of himself, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." A RAINBOW, as a symbol of peace, now appears, and in the clouds we see PALM-BRANCHES, emblems of victory. A BRIDGE leads to one of the TWELVE BRIGHT PEARLY GATES OF "the HEAVENLY JERUSALEM, over which an EXALTED ANGEL majestically keeps watch. In the middle of the city rises MOUNT ZION, on which Christ stands in the form of a LAMB, who, as the sun of the spiritual world, sends forth RAYS OF GLORY. How true are the words of the hymn—

"The path of life at first is steep,
Shows naught for us but pain and trial;
But further on it leads to joy,
Then ends in rapturous delight!"

Reader, which road are you travelling? Note the "all-seeing eye" in the centre of the sky. God's eye is upon you. He sees all,—and sees from the beginning to the end. What does He see in your life? Will you not commence the New Year by entering the Narrow Way.

A MAN said at a recent noon prayer meeting: "Trust ye in the Lord forever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26: 4), was the only verse of the Bible I ever read before I opened that precious Book to read it regularly for myself on my conversion to Christ. Six years ago, when I was at sea, I got a little bit of paper with this text printed on it, and read it without thinking much about it, but it stuck to me, and I became anxious to read the rest of the chapter. Finding a Bible, I read and read till I saw that Jesus had died for me, and I just laid myself down at His feet, and He has kept me ever since then in safety and peace."

[ORIGINAL.]

Two Reasons Why God Witholds the Blessing.



HAVE been much concerned lately about the want of success in our churches, and the following are as I take it, the most important of the reasons of such comparative failure.

I.—"We do not look for or expect results; we are cold and dead in our prayers; we do not ask believing we shall receive." Now let us look at a few passages. "So

shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please: and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it." (Isaiah lv. 11). Now this is a promise of God, and God always keeps His word; so that where the Word is faithfully proclaimed there will be results, whether we believe it or not, but by disbelieving it we lose the blessing to our own souls; for I know not how it is with others, but to me, when I see a soul converted to God, it fills me with such joy that I cannot help praising God all day, and praise is good for the soul.

"If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it." (John xiv. 14). "Delight thyself also in Jehovah; and He shall give thee the desires of thy heart. (Psalm xxxvii. 4). These are also promises and God is waiting to fulfil them, but we persist in hindering his work by our unbelief. "Take heed brethren lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief."

II.—"We are always ready to take money for the cause of Christ from those who are its enemies." Under this heading comes Concerts, Theatricals, Bazars, Garden Parties, and Bran Pies. The people that get them up say they are working for the church, and if that be so, I am very glad I am working for Christ and not for the church, for I know that He will never ask me to do a thing so unholy and wicked to obtain such money for His cause. "Thus saith the Lord God, every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet, I Jehovah will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols." (Ezekiel xiv. 4). O let us all remove the stumblingblock whatever it be, and let us set up an Idol in our hearts; but let that Idol be Jesus. Blessed be God He will answer us according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

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