

helpful, and he hesitated not to recommend others to attend. And when we paid him our final visit, his invitation given us to lead in prayer at his bedside had in it no lack of warmth, although we have reason to believe that he was a constant reader of the EXPOSITOR.

TRIALS.

There appears to be room enough in this world for almost everything except trials. Somehow or other we have come to think that trials are pretty nearly all loss. They don't appear to come to order; in fact, when they arrive we almost consider them intruders. We hardly ever fail to consider them as being somehow or other out of place. We look upon them as though some strange thing had happened to us; and instead of accepting them as being very beneficial, we at once commence to fortify and to nerve ourselves up to the point of enduring them, thinking that, of course, as they are here we must get through them the best way we can, and instead of being patient in tribulation, we are cast down, and see not the bright light in the cloud. But after all, "trials" when viewed from the proper standpoint, are not all loss, and if accepted as from the hands of God and endured, supported by the knowledge that they are for our best good, we find that, instead of loss, they are all gain.

The Scripture tells us that the trial of our faith is much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried by fire, and we are to count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations, knowing that the trial of our faith worketh patience; and James tells us, "that when patience has her perfect work, we are perfect and entire, wanting nothing." So that when we come to recognize that no good thing will God withhold from them that walk uprightly, we at once accept the trials and tests of our faith to be good things, or they would certainly be withheld, according to the promise just mentioned. It is on this very truth that we are enabled to rejoice evermore, knowing full well that our Father's love, care and interest in us,

is such, that if "trials" were not more precious to us, and more helpful to us than anything else, they would certainly be withheld. Therefore, it is our blessed privilege to recognize that the trial could not come to us without our Father's permission, and, therefore, when it does come, we may look up and say, "even so Father, for so it seemeth good in Thy sight," and actually rejoice in the presence of the trial, knowing that nothing else can come to us at this time that would be so helpful.

Trials and tests are part of God's programme for us. To those who walk uprightly they do not come too often, nor out of season, and are actually necessary to Christian growth, and development. If Christian faith were not tested, its possessor would be unconscious of His power, the world around him would be unconscious of His power. How are we to know the possibilities of our being, unless something occurs to call them forth? How is the world to know the possibilities of grace, except as revealed in our life? In what other way could we come in contact with the marvellous supporting grace of God, if it were not for trials?

Did not Paul discover the great desirability of the wondrous grace of God in supporting him in trial, in preference to the removal of the difficulty, for which he besought the Lord?

We find him exclaiming, "Most gladly, therefore, will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me;" clearly meaning, of course, that more trial meant more grace; and he hailed with delight anything that brought him in contact with the abundance of grace.

Then; again, is not trial one of the best revealers of human experience? Who has not been shown by a good robust trial that they did not possess as strong faith, or as firm hold of God, as they really thought they had? Before the trial came the life looked all right, but when the trial came, and the life was stirred to its very depths, there was, perhaps, in the inability to endure, the plain revelation that they were not as strong as they thought they were.

We have in our mind now an occur-