

TESTING TIMES.

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"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."

When a person enters into a deeper experience of the spiritual blessings of the gospel, we anticipate with much concern the testing time of this grace. From observation we have to conclude that it is the *few* who abide the trial of their faith, whilst the *many* fail. From a remark made by the late Rev. J. S. Inskip, at Round Lake, we gathered the fact that out of the many hundreds of ministers who had experienced full salvation at the different holiness camp-meetings held by him only a few, comparatively speaking, had remained steadfast—had successfully endured the fiery trial that tried them. The same may be said of his labours in Canada; and, alas, that we have to admit it, the same history seems to follow the holiness revival everywhere.

Are we playing the part of a croaker in such utterances, and so needlessly weakening the hands of holiness workers by discouraging words? By no means, we are simply drawing attention to facts; that we may find out some way to lessen the proportion of those who, having entered the highway of holiness, cease to walk therein.

Lately we have received letters from a number of persons who, after entering into a blessed experience of full salvation, have been tested to the extreme limit of endurance. We have also conversed with others in like case. Our sympathy with them has been most thorough, for we not only had similar experiences to recall, but also we trembled lest their faith should fail in the trying hour. But some of the purest joy of the last month has been ours, when rejoicing with some of these tried ones over complete victory obtained.

There is an element of surprise to all enduring these tests of faith. Here is a minister who obtains the blessing of holiness. How he revels in the increased joy of his new-found experience! At once he begins to preach with a gladness of heart unknown before. Like Melancthon after his conversion, he thinks that everybody who hears his experience will at once enter with him into this rest of faith, this "sabbath of love." But to his surprise he is met with unsympathising looks and acts. In his ardour he presses the subject home to the heart and consciences of his hearers, and some are stirred up to seek like precious faith. But a certain class in his church begins to show