

of graceful beauty. All these things are simply from the use of means. We know that, though wonderful, there is no magic about it; that these results are obtained by due observance of natural laws. Even so, when we see the rich results of divine grace in the life of a Christian—the grandeur of his work, and the rich texture of his life—we may say, from sure analogies, that he has imported into his life a new element of force which has infinitely deepened and intensified his whole nature, and enabled him to produce results in thought and feeling and action which almost surpass belief.

Christian life and progress are things of law. They are according to a settled and abiding arrangement. We may, under these laws, have eternal life begun. We may develop and glorify that life by a wise use of the economy of grace. We may pierce the hardest rock; may bridge the widest chasm; may raise the stately temple, or weave the wondrous web. The secret in all will be the wise and constant use of the help of God: the submission of the mental powers to the influence of the mind of God: prayerfully attaching ourselves to Him in the use of these powers upon the things of His will. And not less the bringing to the throne of grace the emotions and affections; that, by contact with divine love, our love may be quickened and energized; that the power of divine pity may be reproduced by us, and may operate for the good of men; that the joy of God over all that is holy and pure and good may so work within ourselves, as to cause zeal in the clearing of ourselves from all that is debasing, and to cause joy in the formation of the things that are lovely and honest and pure, and that are of good report.

Under these circumstances, what a blessing that the way to God's presence is always open. Though the throne of grace is settled in Heaven, and men must believingly approach if they would be helped—though they *must* come to God, and *must* come through Christ—yet it is ever accessible. God's gospel meets our eye everywhere with the announcement that there is "power to let." Our God has ordained strength for us. A shaft runs through every life. Nowhere is a human being shut out from the privilege of contact and communion with God. The *price* of the privilege has been paid; *that* is all settled. And the power is constant, and the connection sure. And there is no intermission:—

"The happy gates of gospel grace
Stand open night and day."

The mighty power never fails—there is no inconstancy in its operations. Even as the wheels of divine providence move forward constantly and grandly, with irresistible force and ceaseless activity, so does the machinery of grace. It will put in motion every human life that is brought into contact with it through the Redemptive Grace of Christ; and will set up and maintain a healthful, glowing activity, whose bright results shall appear in personal improvement and happiness, as well as in blessed effects upon the respective totals of human happiness and human misery.

CONCERNING THE LAWS OF NATURE.

BY D. H., TORONTO.

"Thou openest Thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing," is the assertion of the Psalmist under the immediate inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is a fact and a necessity. The Creator must be the Sustainer. The Almighty Being who brought all things into existence, and filled this Earth with its abundant and diverse forms of life, is not forgetful of the works of His hands, but exercises a continued and direct care over His creatures in providing food adapted to their requirements. It is most interesting to consider the progressive works of creation, and see how God gradually formed our planet, fitting it, through long courses of ages for the suitable occupancy of the inhabitants that from time to time have tenanted it.