

TRIALS MAY COME, BUT BE FAITHFUL.

The Bible is full of encouragement, and even presents to us this fact, that trials and temptations are, or should be, to the Christian, what fire is to silver or gold. Says the apostle: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. I. Peter i. 7. Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. James i. 3.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. Jer. i. 12. Beloved, think it not strange, concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. I. Peter iv. 12. "Though our faith should be tried with fire, let us hold fast to the religion of Jesus Christ." It is our only hope here, and our only hope of a crown of life hereafter. "Let us take the apostles of Christ as examples of trials and afflictions, and see what befell some of them." Paul, for instance, suffered the most severe trials that could be borne by man, and under them all see how he bore them, in order to gain the crown of life. II. Cor. xi. 23. In stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews, five times received I forty stripes save one, thrice I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep. It journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness; in watchings often, in hunger and thirst; in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." Here is a long list of trials for one man to bear. But under them all, when about to depart this life, he says: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." Hence, we see that Paul's faith was tried as gold and silver is tried. As with Paul, so with the rest of the apostles, they all fought a good fight, they all finished their course, they all kept the faith and are now awaiting the crown of life. Paul, in his letter to Hebrews, (11th chap.) gives a catalogue of trials and sufferings of the Old Testament prophets. We might quote passage after passage to prove how these men were tried. Job says, "But He knoweth the way that I take; when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. David, from the fullness of his heart, in referring to the gracious benefits that God had bestowed upon His people, is heard to say: Thou! O God, hast proved us, Thou hast tried us as silver and gold is tried; the refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold; but the Lord trieth the hearts. Isaiah has something to say about the trial of our faith, he gives the express language of our heavenly Father. Behold! I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction. Zechariah, in prophesying of the death of Christ, and the trial of a third part. "The Lord is heard to say: I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried." It is necessary that our faith be tried here. That it should stand the test hereafter, every man's work is to be made manifest, and fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If our faith is able to stand the test in the judgment, we shall be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

How many noble of earth have passed hence, that we know nothing of, who have been life-long

sufferers and trial bearers, and to-day we have thousands who are suffering and bearing their trials with patience, waiting the summons from the Master. So that their earthly house of this tabernacle being dissolved, they should have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Where trials have an end, where trouble never enters, where peace and harmony reigns supreme, and the crown of righteousness is given to those who have come out of great tribulation, and washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

W. J. MESSERVEY.

Married.

CAIN-WELCH.—At Westport, on the 27th of December, by E. C. Ford, Mr. Charles E. Cain and Miss Annie Welch, all of Westport.

MORHOUSE-McDORMAND.—At Westport, on the 5th of January, by E. C. Ford, Mr. Augustus Morhouse and Miss Clara McDormand, all of Westport.

SWIFT-TITUS.—At Westport, on the 16th Jan., by E. C. Ford, Mr. Hanford Swift and Miss Rosie L. Titus, all of Westport.

THOMPSON-BLACKFORD.—At the residence of the bride's father, Tiverton, N. S., on the 25th Dec., 1888, by H. A. DeVoe, Mr. Walter Thompson, of Westport, to Cassie, daughter of Simon Blackford, Esq., of Tiverton.

Died.

PETERS.—At Westport, Dec. 20th, 1888, H. Murray, beloved son of Bro. John N. and Bella C. Peters, aged 4 years and 9 months. H. E. C.

AINSLIE.—Died at Shubenacadie, on the 18th of December, Sister Maggie Ainslie. Her disease was consumption. Although she suffered much from pain and weakness, she was so cheerful and uncomplaining that hopes of her recovery were entertained till very near her last. When we held meetings in the school-house near her father's, in the autumn of 1886, Maggie was the first to step forward and make the good confession before many witnesses; she and another young lady were baptized on the following day. She seemed very happy, and from the letters and testimony of those who witnessed her daily life, we have every reason to believe she has held fast that good confession to the end, and that Jesus will confess her before His Father and the holy angels. I shall never forget her last earnest words when we parted over two years ago. May the Lord comfort her dear parents, who have been called to follow many of their children to the grave, and may her surviving brothers and sister be enabled to look to that blessed Saviour who has unstung "the last enemy" and is so anxious to give us an everlasting victory over the grave. Maggie was second cousin of Sadie Wallace, who died in California about the same time, and also of Edith Wallace, who died the year before. The three were near the same age. Both Maggie and Sadie visited Edith in her last illness, and wrote to us with much interest of her joyful anticipation of going to meet her Saviour. How little we thought that both were so soon to follow her.

CRANDLER.—We hear with sadness of the death of Sister Jane, beloved wife of Bro. Edward Chandler, of South Port, P. E. I. After suffering about three months she passed peacefully to her Saviour on the 18th of January, in her 67th year. We were permitted to spend a few happy hours with her in her sickness, but circumstances prevented another meeting, and even the privilege of attending the funeral. Sister Chandler was the second daughter of Alexander Crawford, who, at the early age of 42 died at Tryon, after faithful and successful labor for the Master, mostly on this Island. He left a widow and 8 children, four sons and four daughters, to struggle with the hardships of this country in those days. With a firm confidence in God's promises, and a heroism too noble to be forgotten, she succeeded in keeping the children together and in giving them an education much above what was common at that day, and before she was called to her rest saw them inclined to the right way, and several of them in the church. Jane was in her 6th year when her father died, and grew up a general favorite, especially with the family. She was baptized in her 19th year by Anthony Dimock, and about two years after was married to Alexander McDonald, who preached several years on the Island, some years in New Brunswick,

and died at Hampton, N. B. early in 1851, leaving his beloved helpmeet and three little daughters to the care of the widow's God. Brother McDonald's ministry was short, but very successful in turning sinners to God. Our Sister, who had lost her father in early youth, was now left in sole charge of her own little ones. But God's promise was made good to her and them. The oldest died in early youth, the other two became Christians, and one of them is the wife and efficient helper of H. T. Morrison, who is now a successful evangelist in the West. Three sons, and two daughters comprise her second family; most of them, with their father, are members of the church. All of her children, except two sons, are in the Western States, and did not see her in her illness. We deeply sympathize with our aged brother in his great loss, and also with the children. The absent ones must feel the stroke very severely. To see a mother no more, who, a short time ago was so cheerful, and so likely to live for many years; a mother, who was always so ready to deny herself for their comfort and happiness, is painful indeed. May God comfort those that weep, and prepare all to meet, never more to part where He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. D. C.

CAMPBELL.—Joseph Campbell, died at his home in Montague, Nov. 29th, aged 43 years, leaving a beloved wife, one dear little boy, and a large circle of other relatives and friends to mourn their loss.

ROSE.—Stanley, the infant and only son of Bro. and Sister Chas. Rose, North Lake, East Point, died Dec. 15, aged 7 days.

The bud by earth winds shaken—
Nipt by the frost of time;
By loving hands is taken
To bloom in fairer clime.

STEWART.—Mrs. Flora, eldest daughter of Duncan Buchanan Esq., Surry, Belfast, and beloved wife of Mr. Jas. N. Stewart, Brudenell, peacefully passed to rest, after a long illness, on Friday, Dec. 7th, 1888, aged 28 years. Sister Stewart was a worthy member of the Church of Christ, Montague, and as she lived, she also died, trusting in Him who came to save. Two little ones are left without mother's care, and two preceded her to the land of light. Sad and lonely is the heart of the husband. May he also be guided home to the Father's house.

MACDONALD.—Saturday morning, Dec. 22, 1888, Mrs. Jane, beloved wife of Bro. John McDonald, New Perth, Lot 52, and daughter of the late John Kennedy Esq., Brackley Point Road, died at her home, surrounded by her family, relatives and friends. As a faithful, active member of the Church of Christ in Montague, a true friend to all in the hour of suffering or need, a loving wife, and a careful and tender mother, she will be greatly missed. She was ever ready to lend the helping hand for the prosperity of the church, the comfort of the afflicted and the good of the community. Peacefully, Sister M. passed into the cold embrace of death. She had lived as she would die, so death had no terrors for her. "Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord." May our kind heavenly Father comfort the bereaved husband and two daughters, whose hearts are bowed in sorrow today, and may they be enabled to look forward to a day, "brighter far than this."

DEWAR.—Mrs. Margaret, relict of the late Robert Dewar, Esq., died at the home of her son-in-law, Capt. John T. Dewar, Montague Bridge, on the first day of the New Year, aged 73 years, after an illness of many months duration, and very painful. Many years ago, Sister Dewar was baptized by the Rev. John Shaw, as a believer in the Christ, and during her long illness, her hope was in Him, alone, who came to earth as a world's redeemer, and who has now passed into the heavens as our priest and advocate. She was surrounded by loving hearts, and carefully tended by gentle hands, during the progress of the hopeless disease, which slowly drained the currents of life. Six daughters and two sons, remain of her eleven children. She also leaves 45 grand-children and five great-grand-children, with a large circle of other relatives and friends to mourn the loss of one who was ever cheerful and hopeful.

"A precious one from us has gone,
A voice we loved is stilled;
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled."

MELLISH.—At Union Road, Lot 51, Jan. 5, James, the infant son of Mr. and Sister James Mellish, after a short illness, ended a short earth life, of six weeks duration. "Suffer the little children and forbid them not to come unto me." "Sate in the arms of Jesus."