

to every annoyance calculated to discourage and rid them of his presence. Repeatedly were plans formed to put him to death, but resolutely he endured it all, and persevered. He believed, and could, therefore, work and wait, and richly were his labours and patience rewarded. When about to despond and to feel that his strength was spent for nought, he was joyfully surprised to find, when returning from a journey he took to the Cape, that a glorious movement had begun, and that the showers of grace, long withheld, were plentifully poured from on high; his prayers were now answered; the Spirit of the Lord had begun his mighty work; the rage of the persecutor was changed into christian zeal and love; the strongholds of the enemy were taken, and the poor captives were free. He could now sing for joy, as well as pray, and in that song multitudes redeemed from sin joined their voices with his. What is the joy of the worldling over his heaps of wealth, what are earthly glories and crowns, compared to the raptures with which that devoted missionary beheld around him the trophies of his victory, the reward of his long and arduous labours? When you read the history of missions, you will thus find, in the experience of others, what is sufficient to keep your courage from sinking, when all is dark and apparently working against you. No adverse circumstances can affect the assurance given by your gracious Master, nor will it prevent the fulfilment of the promise on which He bids you rest. It was not without a purpose that our people were led to contribute so liberally for this mission; nor was it without a purpose that your heart was moved to offer your services. The hand of the Lord was certainly in it, and the movement shall not be in vain. His gracious purpose will be accomplished. Trials may be encountered, dark clouds may gather overhead, and every prospect may be darkened, enemies may assail, but these shall not stay His hand from working, nor prevent the sure triumph of the cross. Yours is eminently a work of faith, and your labour must ever be a labour of love. Faith in the promise, a strong and steadfast trust in Christ, and a sincere and ardent love for undying souls, will carry you joyfully through every trial. In every degraded form, though stained with every crime, and loathsome with every disgusting vice, you will see an immortal spirit that may yet be saved and washed and fitted to mingle with saints and angels around the throne. These souls now sunk in the mire of sin, and polluted with every repulsive and beastly vice, are capable of being transformed into jewels, pure and bright, to adorn the crown of our Redeemer, and shine as the stars for ever and ever. This is the object for which you are sent. For this you are about to leave your friends and your native land, and this you must ever keep before you as the object of your every wish and thought and prayer and effort. The opposition you will encounter, the ingratitude of those whom you wish to benefit, the trials you may have to endure, and the faintness of heart which you may frequently experience,—all these, and whatever else may unite to discourage, must not be allowed to relax your hold of the great object of your mission, nor weaken your confidence in the final success and the glorious reward which will crown your labours. You are about to descend to the low and dark region where death reigns, and where Satan has established the stronghold of his power, but you are going armed with weapons that never failed in the conflict. "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty, through God, to the pulling down of strongholds." That blessed gospel which Christ commanded to be preached to every creature does not require to be preceded by any process of human ripening, nor does it ask the aid of civilization to secure for it an entrance to the undying spirit. It is as well adapted for, and as capable of reaching, the most ignorant and degraded of our race, as the most refined and cultivated. It is a message from God to sinners, and it knows no distinction between civilized and savage. It is love, infinite and all powerful, issuing from God's own heart, and its mission is to seek and gain and sanctify the heart of man, wherever found. Human