

We are sorry to have kept our readers waiting so long for this month's number ; but we could not help it.

Since the issue of our last, the Master has been pleased to call us aside from the active duties of life into the chamber of sickness. And however much "flesh and blood" may deprecate such experience as we have been called to pass through, we have no doubt it is good for us ; and we are thankful to say that whether suffering the greatest pain, or—as the natural effect of the disease—feeling the greatest depression of spirit, we were never tempted—even for a moment—to doubt either the wisdom or goodness of Him "who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will."

We believe there are lessons to be learned which can only be learned *effectually* by a diversity of some kind or another, and we trust that we have by our sickness, short as it has been, learned some of those lessons. We have had e. g. brought home to us in a way which no mere words could have done, the uncertainty of all temporal blessings and even of life itself. By suffering intense pain we have learned *something* of that love which led the Lord of glory to voluntarily endure the cross for sinners. We have learned—practically—something of the sustaining grace of God. And we hope we have learned to sympathise more fully with those who are in affliction. These are lessons which we all need to learn, and whatever means are used by our Heavenly Father in teaching us must be blessings, though sometimes in disguise.

We are thankful to say that we are in a fair way of resuming our usual duties in a few days, and we ask the prayers of our readers that we may come forth from the sick room more than ever in earnest, fully determined to devote body, soul and spirit to the work of the ministry in preaching Christ and him crucified, and in seeking to win souls, as well as to build up Christ's people in their most holy faith ; having learned how short is time, how opportunities are passing away, and how soon will come the night when no man can work.