

baptism from above, and "there came into his soul, and was diffused through it, a new sense of the glory of the Divine Being." "From that time," he says, "*I began to have a new idea of Christ*, and of the work of redemption, and the glorious way of salvation by Him. I had a view that was extraordinary of the glory of the Son of God, and of his wonderful grace." Under this celestial baptism, he tells us that he was in a flood of tears, and wept aloud for joy.

Now this is the true "higher life," about which so many crude and extravagant things have been written by men of more enthusiasm than theological accuracy. What Payson, Edwards, Rutherford, and Wesley felt, *we may feel* in our humbler measure. Every child of God should covet it intensely. This, too, is what our churches need in this day of apathy and self-indulgence and barrenness. We need the new consecration unto Christ, and the new baptism into Christ. An ungodly world will never be converted by men and women who are barely gasping for life themselves. Brother, sister, get a new hold of Christ if you would draw sinners from the pit! Let your battle-song be—

"I have done at length with trifling :
Henceforth, O thou soul of mine,
Thou must take up sword and gauntlet,
Waging warfare most divine !
Oh, how many a glorious record
Had the angels of me kept,
Had I *done* instead of *doubted*,
Had I *run* instead of *crept* !

"PREPARE YE THE WAY."



HERE is a sound of abundance of rain." "If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth." "Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it; Thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water; Thou preparest them corn when Thou hast so provided for it." Our God is surely fulfilling these gracious words to us in spiritual blessing. On every hand "we hear of showers of blessing, God is scattering full and free," and it behoves us each to see that we are in a receptive condition, that we may lift up our face to God and say, "Let some droppings fall on me, even me."

For it is possible to see with our eyes the abundance wherewith the Lord blesses his people, and yet not to eat thereof. No outward position will secure to us participation in the blessing; the lord, on whose hand the king leaned, and whom he appointed to have charge of the gate, was trodden beneath the people's feet, and died, because he disbelieved the word of promise. Therefore let each and all of us have faith in God. He *hath* blessed us with all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ. All things are ours; for we are Christ's, and Christ is God's. All the promises of God in Him are Yea, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God by us.

But although all things are ours, if we are not faithful in that which is Another's, how shall He give us that which is our own? If we are not faithful in ministering the things of God to souls perishing for lack of knowledge, how shall he give us in possession and enjoyment the things present and to come, which the Son of man, our Lord and Saviour, has purchased for us by his death and resurrection in our stead?