

there is the Epistle to the Romans—forged links of iron logic, strong enough to hold a recreant world to the throne of God, with more sublime truths dropped as mere parentheses than can be gathered out of volumes of other men; while along these links of logic, and over these parenthetical expressions, leaps a line of electric fire, till the iron changes into soul, and that which seemed strong as iron becomes stronger as emotion. The Epistle to the Romans showed man at his best, by the help of the visible creation and the Mosaic law. But Ephesians shows man at his best, as helped by the Creator, saved by Christ, and aided by the Holy Ghost. God hath raised us up and made us to sit together in heavenly places with Christ Jesus. To this end, He has used the same power to usward that He used when He raised Jesus from the dead, and set Him on high, far above all principality and power that is named in this world or in that which is to come. And He has done this that He may show us unto the ages to come, in the heavenly places, as the outcome of the exceeding greatness of His power to usward which believe. All the optimists of this world have views of man that are meagre and poor, stunted and dwarfed, mutilated and malformed, compared with the views of incomprehensible greatness that the Bible offers when man, nature and God, in the exercise of His highest attributes in intensest activity, join to lift men up.

What is the process whereby God seeks to train men? It is a process of *external help*. Many a man is ready to say: "Let me develop myself; let me be dependent on no outside help. I wish to be a self-made man." Pitiably pride! He can never develop a breath without an ocean of air, or power to creep without a world to crawl on; he can never develop a power of mind without a universe as a ladder on which to climb; he can never develop a moral force without the infinite God to give him the idea and set up standards, a suffering Christ to remove obstacles,

and the Holy Ghost to give him daily comfort and help. On the same principles by which he develops the babe into boyhood, the boy into immature manhood, God develops immature manhood into the perfect stature of manhood in Christ Jesus.

"Heaven is not reached at a single bound;  
But we build the ladder by which we rise  
From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,  
And we mount to its summit round by  
round."

The grandest picture in the history of our race is Omnipotence prostrate in Gethsemane, and dying on the cross to help men. The next grandest is Paul in a dungeon in Rome, forgetful of all possible personal ills, and helping the whole Ephesian Church to heights of manhood beyond the dreams of their highest ambitions. The universe is one. No man liveth unto himself, and no man dieth unto himself.

Paul bows his knees and prays God to "grant" something to the Ephesian Church. According to what measure? Not of their desires, or capacities, or even needs, but "according to the riches of his glory." Kings grant royally. There is a legend that Alexander told a friend to go to his treasurer and get what money he wanted. The treasurer soon came, in great indignation, to say that this friend had abused his confidence, and ought to lose his head. "Why, he has asked for \$40,000,000!" "No," said Alexander, "he honors me by asking largely; he estimates my ability, and exalts my friendship. Pay the draft." We come to One who is richer in worlds than the ocean shore is in grains of sand, with ability to multiply these worlds by infinity by a word; and we should say to our soul,

"Thou art coming to a King!  
Large petitions with thee bring,  
For His grace and power are such,  
Thou canst never ask too much."

Can we estimate the fulness of the riches of His glory? "God endured with much long suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction to make known the riches of his glory." All that God has borne from sinners is set as a symbol to signify the vast riches of His