

1. God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. The abundant mercy of God. (a) Character of Him who bestows the hope. (b) Persons on whom the hope is conferred. (c) Means by which the hope is secured.

3. This abundant mercy manifests itself in our being "begotten again."

II. THE OBJECT ON WHICH THIS HOPE CENTRES.

"An inheritance"—hereditary property rather than that obtained by purchase or received as rewards: "If children then heirs."

1. Incorruptible—undecaying.
2. Undeified—essentially pure.
3. Fadeth not away—unwithering, never ceasing to satisfy.

III. THE GROUNDS ON WHICH THIS HOPE RESTS: "The resurrection of Christ."

1. Seals the truth of Christ's doctrine.

2. Attests the acceptance of His sacrifice.

3. Ground of mediatorial exaltation.

IV. FRUITION IN WHICH THIS HOPE WILL CULMINATE: "Reserved in heaven."

1. This inheritance is in safe keeping.

2. Meanwhile we are kept by the power of God.

3. At the appropriate time we shall enter upon our inheritance.

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LIVING ISSUES FOR PULPIT TREATMENT.

Illiteracy and Blair's Educational Bill.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.—Hosea iv: 6.

OUR readers have doubtless heard of this bill, and are somewhat acquainted with its purpose and provisions. As originally prepared by Senator Blair and introduced in the Senate of the United States in 1881, it proposed the distribution of \$105,000,000 among the States for educational purposes in ten annual installments. As passed by the Senate in 1884 by a vote of 33 to 11, \$77,000,000 were to be distributed in eight years; and as passed by the Senate in 1886 by a vote of 36 to 11, the same amount in the same time with a schoolhouse fund of \$2,000,000. While there was a large majority in the House of Representatives in favor of the measure in both the 48th and 49th Congresses, its opponents thus far have been able to defeat the consideration of it on its merits.

Public interest in the bill is increasing, and the necessity of its enactment is not diminishing. We know of no more vital question than this now before Congress. The measure will be vigorously pressed in both

houses upon the assembling of the 50th Congress, and it will continue to disturb its peace until the great evil which demands its interposition is removed. It will be found impossible to evade the issue presented in this bill much longer. It is a wise and beneficent measure to confront the immense and threatening mass of ignorance now existing, particularly at the South. Senator (now Secretary) Lamar's words in voting for it are true:

"I have watched it with deep interest and intense solicitude. In my opinion it is the first step and the most important step this Government has ever taken in the direction of the solution of what is called the race problem; and I believe it will tell more powerfully and decisively upon the future destinies of the colored race than any measure or ordinance that has yet been adopted in reference to it—more decisively than either the thirteenth, fourteenth or fifteenth amendments, unless it is to be considered, as I do consider it, the logical sequence and the practical continuance of those amendments. I think that this measure is fraught with almost unspeakable benefits to the entire population of the South, white and black. It will excite a new interest among our people; it will stimulate both State and local communities to more energetic exertions and greater sacrifices, because it will encourage them in their hopes in grappling and struggling with a