

and comfort the mourners that are among you : the hearts that bleed, and the hearts that are broken, may He bind up. Still further : there are some of your number, who trust in Christ, who yet hesitate to make open confession of that trust. These admit that they ought to act differently in this matter, and yet they postpone action. Do I make a needless or unexpected confession when I declare that, concerning some of these cases, I cannot but feel decidedly discouraged.

If however some hopes have been blighted, and others appear to be far from their fulfilment, we can still rejoice together,—and increasingly rejoice,—because of God's unfailing bounty. The divine promises, though exceeding great and many, never disappoint. At least our higher hopes have been realized, and more than realized. May our Father inspire us for service, qualify us with all necessary spiritual gifts, and establish every one of us in every good word and work.

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