

BURDEN BEARING.

Text: "For each man shall bear *his own* burden," (Gal. vi. 5).
"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee," etc., (Ps. lv. 22). "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ," (Gal. vi. 2).

The theme of this discourse is—Burden Bearing; and this theme has been suggested to me by the three portions of Scripture which I have chosen as my text. I have brought these three texts together, not because of their resemblance to each other in phraseology, but because they represent the successive steps in a spiritual process.

The first step is this—"Each man shall bear *his own* burden." The burdens which men have to carry throughout life vary alike in kind and in quantity, yet "each man shall bear his own burden." I must, for example, bear the burden of responsibility. Just because I am a man, endowed by God with intellect, conscience and will, and informed by nature or revelation, or both, as to what my duty is, I bear the burden of responsibility both to God and to my fellow-men. Responsibility is a burden which every man must bear. The words of St. Paul are universally true—"So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God," (Rom. xiv. 12). There are, of course, degrees of responsibility, as our Lord teaches us in these words, "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and made not ready, nor did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes; but he that knew not, and did things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. And to whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required: and to whom they commit much, of him will they ask the more," (St. Luke, xii. 47-48). Every man must bear the burden of responsibility, and the responsibility of each man is just in proportion to his knowledge and opportunities. God will require much from us who have been born into Christian homes and who have heard from our infancy the Gospel's joyful sound. Let us remember that each man must bear the burden of his own responsibility, and this burden of personal responsibility for the right ordering of his own life and conduct both in the sight of God and man, he cannot transfer to the shoulders of another. "Each man shall bear *his own* burden."