

as far as He was concerned. Had we acted otherwise we would, in our overweening pride, have said to Him, "take Thou the second place."

He who obeys the Holy One, no matter how he may seem to set at defiance the laws of voluntary humility, always follows God, and so takes second place, whilst he who disobeys, *i.e.*, neglects to learn the voice of the Spirit, always, in spite of his protestations to the contrary, vaunts himself as deserving the first place, and either ignores the Holy Spirit altogether, or tries to make Him his servant.

THE TYRANNY OF PRIDE.

Why will you keep caring for what the world says? Try to be no longer a slave to it. You can have but little idea of the comfort of freedom from it—it is bliss! All this caring for what people will say is from pride. Hoist your flag, and abide by it. In an infinitely short space of time all secrets will be divulged. Therefore, if you are misjudged, why trouble to put yourself right? You have no idea what a great deal of trouble it will save you. Roll your burden on Him, and He will make straight your mistakes. He will set you right with those with whom you have set yourself wrong. "Here am I, a lump of clay; Thou art the potter. Mould me as Thou in Thy wisdom wilt. Never mind my cries. Cut my life off—so be it. Prolong it—so be it. Just as Thou wilt; but I rely on Thy unchanging guidance during the trial." Oh, the comfort that comes from this!—*Gordon*.

PURITY.—Purity is power. The rose, among the sweetest and most beautiful of God's creations, is armed with thorns, nature's sharp bayonets for warding off attack. Purity is the defense of beauty; modesty is the safeguard of innocence. "Keep thyself pure." The severe chastity which repels familiarity is an absolute essential for the safety of the soul as genial attractiveness is for its beauty. —*A. J. Gordon*.

A BIT OF EXPERIENCE.

"Let them also who suffer according to the will of God, commit their souls in well-doing unto a faithful Creator." This verse took my attention the other day, and I find I look at suffering in a different light from what I did a while ago.

Physical suffering and all other suffering comes upon one walking with God, as only another manifestation of a Father's love. It takes the soul right up into the heart of Christ, to fill up the measure of his sufferings for His body's sake; but, this sweet union does not alleviate, but rather intensifies the suffering, for the more we become like Christ the more sensitive we are to all manner of suffering. The only and sufficient comfort is, our Father's hand aims the dart, and He will draw it forth and heal the wounds by any means He chooses, or He may watch the process till the work is complete. This is what I have learned so far of perfect submission, and I am so glad I have learned to walk in this beautiful life, the life that personifies Christ on earth. It was not always so; once I took all apparent evil that came to me as punishment for sin, and all good as of the mercy and goodness of God to unworthy me. But, later, I learned the sweet lesson that "Jesus bore my griefs and carried my sorrows, that He was wounded for my transgressions and bruised for my iniquities, and by His stripes I was healed." Then by faith I cast myself on Him and was healed, and a peace I never knew before possessed my soul, a peace I never expected to know on earth, and I endeavoured, by persevering prayer and faith, to realize all the benefits of Christ's sacrifice and suffering on myself and others; but soon found by observation and the teaching of the Holy Spirit that this was not the way for me to the "rest that remained for the people of God," but I said, Father if it be Thy will I would rather labour, agonize and supplicate, that others may be brought into this knowledge of Christ that I possess, than claim this perfect rest. I was swimming out on a plank of prayers and promises, on the ocean of God's love. I