

have gone before him. Now, what is true of the scholarship of art is just as true of the scholarship of religion. There is a model of unattained perfection in the eyes of his faithful devotees, even the pure, and right, and absolutely beautiful and holy law of God; and this they constantly labour to realise in their lives, and so to build up, each in his own person, a befitting inhabitant for the realms of eternity. But while they love this law, they are loaded with a weight of indolence, and carnality, and earthly affections, which cumber their ascent thitherward; and just in proportion to the delight they take in the contemplation of its heaven-born excellence, are the despondency and the shame wherewith they regard their own mean and meagre imitations of it. Yet who does not see that out of the believer's will pitching so high, and the believer's work lagging so miserably after it, there cometh that very activity which guides and guarantees his progress towards Zion,—that therefore it is that he is led to ply with greater diligence the armour which at length wins him the victory,—that the babe in Christ is cradled, as it were, in the agitation of these warring elements,—that his spiritual ambition is just the more whetted and fostered into strength by the obstacles through which it has to fight its way,—and rising from every fall with a fresh onset of help from the sanctuary, does he proceed from step to step, till he has finished the faith, till he has reached the prize of his high calling.—*Chalmers.*

SAVING FAITH.

True saving faith is daily *growing*, and constantly *persevering*. Faith lives; but because its life is imperfect, it still grows and increases. It is said that 'the Righteousness of God is revealed in the Gospel from faith to faith.' That is, as Faith grows more and more capacious and quicksighted, so God's righteousness is more and more discovered to it. The Apostle commends his Thessalonians, and thanks God for this,—that 'their *Faith groweth exceedingly.*' And Faith so grows, as that it perseveres. 'It fails not.'—It draws not back to perdition, but believes

to the saving of the soul.' It makes 'faithful to the death, and so 'the believer receives the crown of life.' If thy Faith grow and persevere, that is true faith indeed. False faith is like the picture of a man on a wall that grows not, and like a blazing star, *it continues but for a time.*—*F. Roberts, D.D., 1651.*

A PRAYER WRITTEN IN THE TIME OF A TRYING DISPENSATION.

In our trouble, Lord, be near us,
We go mournful all the day;
Oh! let not thy judgments fear us,
Shield us, Lord, we humbly pray.

Bless to us this dispensation,
Let thy blows no more descend,
Grant us grace and consolation,
Keep us faithful to the end.

We are sorrow-worn and fainting,
Satan, sin, and fears prevail;
Let thy tender heart, relenting,
Yield us succour, lest we fail.

We are feeble, poor, and dying,
We have nothing sure but Thee;
While our woes are multiplying,
Near us, O our Father, be.

And while storms and darkness gather,
Lightnings flame, and clouds amass,
In thy bosom, Heavenly Father,
Let me nestle till they pass.

And in every dispensation,
With which thou art pleased to try,
Give us grateful resignation,
And more meetness for the sky.

And when done with time forever,
Earth and all terrestrial things,
Take us home, no more to sever,
To be with thee, priests and kings.

Rockwood.

A. A.

God, in arranging his purposes of mercy, has been pleased so to honour the supplications of man, as to constitute them a part of his plan, and to give them a place antecedent to the actual bestowment of grace.—*Rev. Jas. McGill.*