

promoté and encourage differences and estrangements which have in the past destroyed the peace of the Church, but let us be ready to admit that diversities of thought are quite consistent with the most loyal adherence to the principles of the Church's Faith.

COMFORT IN THE WILDERNESS.

To believers this world is not a home, but only a place of sojourn; a wilderness through which, as pilgrims, oft weary and faint, they are passing onward to their eternal rest. But this is their comfort—if it is a wilderness, they are not to be long in it. When a few brief years at most have passed away, they will be out of it, and their weary sojourn in it, be but a fading memory.

But, better far, they are not alone in it. A friend is near on whom they can lean day by day, a friend so mighty that he can uphold to the utmost, and so precious that He is pre-eminently the Beloved.

"Who is she that cometh up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved?" With ordinary friends we can only go a certain length in this despondency. If we lean too heavily on them, or too long, they are apt to get wearied of us. But with our blessed Redeemer, if there is complaint at all, it is not that we lean too much on Him, but lean too little. When He is the object of it, we can never exceed in trustful dependence. Even permission so to lean would be much, but we have far more; it is not only His desire, but His express command, that day by day (as they arise, we should cast our every burden and

care upon Him. "Be careful for nothing," says the apostle; "but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts, and minds through Christ Jesus."

One other thought is peculiarly sweet and comforting, namely, that when once fairly out of the wilderness, *believers never return to it again.* In the new and better Eden of the redeemed a second fall or a second expulsion is an eternal impossibility; for the saints are vitally one with the glorified Redeemer, and shall be so forever.

"Though I leave this blessed Island for a while," said the saintly Fletcher of Madley when about to go abroad, "I trust I shall never leave the kingdom of God, the Mount Zion, the New Jerusalem. There I entreat you to meet me. There are no parting seas there, no interposing mountains, no sickness, no death, no fear of loving too much, and no shame for loving too little."

WHY I ATTEND A FREE CHURCH.

THOUGHT on this subject was first awakened by a friend's being obliged, through change of circumstances, to leave the church of her choice and where she was deeply rooted. She was a person of energy and ability, of real service in many departments of parish work. Her husband died. The rents of the pews were raised. She asked that her pew-rent might remain unchanged, as she could not afford more, but the answer was returned