

have as an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil, whether the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, etc., etc. (II. b. vi. 18, 19, 20) More than ships need anchors, with flukes bedded in solid rocks. Bridges suspended on great anchors, with flukes bedded in solid rocks, defy the fury of wind and wave. Christians on this side of death's river need an anchor for their souls, so often tossed to and fro. The Gospel sets this hope before us, and with such an anchor both sure and steadfast entered within the veil and fastened in the Rock of Ages, they will stand every assault until they appear with Christ in glory. Well may it be called "that blessed hope."

But after all the blessedness of faith and hope, love is still greater. Let us consider some of the reasons for its superiority.

1st. Faith is a human attribute, something that man does, a privilege granted him by God instead of personal knowledge or sight. He believes what is testified because he does not know or see it. But it would be improper to say that God *believes* because He *knows* all things, and all things are naked and open to His eyes. The same is true of *hope*. Man hopes for what he does not see, but God does not hope, for He sees all things.

But what shall we say of *love*? Man loves, but does God love? Yes, verily; and we love because He first loved us. Love is greater than faith and hope because it is an attribute of God.

2nd. Faith and hope are inferior to love, because they will both pass away, although they now abide. We now believe in Jesus because we have not seen Him. But if faithful to Him our faith will end in sight. We will see Him as He is. We now hope for the joys of heaven, but if true to the Son of God we shall have these joys in full possession. Faith will end, be swallowed up in sight, and hope in fruition. We now know in part, but then we shall know even as also we are known. But will love pass away? No, never. Love never faileth. These, with many other reasons, show love to be greater than faith and hope. But nothing can be greater than love because God is love.

We cannot tell when love began, for God is love. In vain we look east, and west, and north and south for boundaries of love, because it is as boundless as the universe.

We try in vain to look across the great Pacific, and might conclude that it was a universe of water, since we can see no shore beyond, but by faith we understand that there is a shore 10,000 miles away. But the love of God is an ocean that passeth all understanding.

The small field of Waterloo has a reputation and importance wide as the earth and lasting as time, because of the battle and its victory. This earth, so small that if blotted out of God's empire would be no more missed than a grain of sand from the shore, or the falling of a leaf from the forest, has a

reputation and importance wide as the universe and lasting as eternity, for its struggle and its victory. On it was the great Maker resolved, and its inhabitants stirred up to open and determined rebellion. He that was in the beginning with God saw it all, and with the horded love of eternity in His heart, saw and came and conquered. In all His words and works and ways He honored God, condemned sin, but befriended the sinner. The work of His life He finished in His death. He bruised the serpent's head, exposed his guile and destroyed the seat of his power. Although men despised the new-born conqueror, and closed their hearts and homes against Him, other worlds showed their deep interest in His advent. A whole multitude of the heavenly host joined the angel in the song of "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will toward men."

When we remember that we were in the rebellion and took no part with the Conqueror, and yet that He delights in forgiving the past and making us partners in His victory, we may well say that His love passeth all understanding. Is there any love like Jesus' love? Is there any service so reasonable and honorable as His? "Let him that glorieth, glory in this that he understandeth and knoweth Me that I am the Lord who exerciseth loving, kind judgment and righteousness on the earth; for in these I delight, saith the Lord." (Jer. ix. 24) Can any work on earth or in heaven be grander than that of leading men to Jesus, that they may believe what He has done for them in the past and what He is anxious to do for and with them in the eternal future?

Original Contributions.

THANKSGIVING.

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In this season of thanksgiving our minds naturally return to the past and view the things we once experienced. In a very few hours we array before us the happenings of a number of years. While viewing them they seem varied, and produce in our hearts sensations very different in character; some giving pleasure, others giving pain. We are prompted to ask whether we can join in a joyous thanksgiving to the Bountiful Giver of all blessings.

Many who read these words may be constrained to say, with a heart swelling with gratitude, "Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name." The year, probably, has been made complete with hours whose moments were little sunbeams. No disappointment checked a merry laugh or caused a moment's pain to a cheerful heart. All plans have been as successfully carried out as though the mind that conceived them had been influenced by a power divine. Probably to you, kind reader, it is the year of pleasing events. But in the onward flight of time have you been too pleased with them, casting sunshine around you, to remember their Author? Others, while recalling the past, recall sadness and disappointments. This seems to have been

the year that Providence has afflicted their souls, and it is so hard for them to say, "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever." The year may have been dark and dreary, all plans for the future may have failed, the fondest hope may have vanished, the joyous fruits of fruition were not enjoyed, disappointing events unlooked for have cast shadows over its days, even death has despoiled some homes, borne away their cheer and comfort, and left them with hearts wounded and bleeding.

With all these varied experiences, we ask, should we lift hearts and voices before our God and say: "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth; my soul shall make her boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear that and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together?" To the thoughtful mind there are many reasons why we should join in the joyous acclamation.

How thankful the Christian should be, whether the year has brought sunshine or shadows, that while young and not contaminated by sin, where the heart was tender and impressive, he gave his heart to Jesus. It is true, when he first made the resolve, he knew little about the grand truths of redemption and the glories of his Master's kingdom. But his heart was young, and had not yet received the leper spot of sin; it had not been inclined to evil ways; it had not been hardened by resisting Jesus' gentle callings; but tender, free, sensitive to Gospel influence, he gave it to Jesus; and Jesus enrolled it into a heart obedient to His will, one that was responsive to His influence in leading him to a higher and nobler life.

When the Master's name was confessed before an audience whose hearts were swelling with glad some emotions, whose eyes were filled with joyous tears, and upon whose lips were silent prayers, it was with trembling lips and a timid heart; but he believed Jesus all the same and accepted Him as his Savior. He was a babe in Christ; but a babe in Christ cannot remain so long.

Growth is the divine will. In nature it is the tender shoot, then the tree; the blade, the ear, then the full-grown corn in the ear; the babe, the youth the man. In the spiritual lines it is the babe in Christ, then the full-grown man. It is not the latitude in which a ship is that causes the thought to the sailor, but in what direction is she moving. To reach the port the ship must sail, and sail in the right direction. There will be fair weather and foul, but in all these must be progress. The mother is not over-anxious about the size of the boy, but she is anxious to see him develop and become a man.

Garfield once said: "When God fashioned the germ of the rose-tree, he made possible the beautiful flower. When the Divine Artist would produce a poem he plants a germ of it in a human soul and out of the soul the poem springs and grows as from the rose-bush the rose." So when God wished to produce characters, with serene beauty, having an influence in the world next to that of His own Spirit, He places in the heart of man His Word, the seat of the Kingdom, and this makes possible a character beautified in holiness. Not only in growth of character does His blessings flow to us, but as cultivation has its balances, so the mind is made intelligent to search in the great problems of Redemption, and thus the capacity of the soul is increased for the pure enjoyment of God's glorious truths. Then here is a reason for being very thankful: we are becoming richer in heavenly treasures.